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Daily Report

Central Eurasia

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'Text' of Statement From Baltic, Nordic Ministers

WS3108084794 *Tallinn BNS in English 1417 GMT*
31 Aug 94

[Official text] of Chairman's conclusions issued after the meeting of Baltic and Nordic foreign ministers in Palanga, Lithuania on 31 August]

[Text] The Foreign Ministers of the Baltic and Nordic countries welcomed the withdrawal of the former Soviet forces from Estonia and Latvia. Fifty-five years after the beginning of the Second World War the Baltic states will be free of any foreign occupying troops.

The Ministers expressed the hope that such new circumstances will improve and consolidate relations between the Baltic states and Russia. They emphasized that the reduction of military forces in the region is conducive to enhance stability and security in the entire Baltic Sea area.

The Ministers are looking forward to the early initiation and conclusion of negotiations on Europe agreements between the European Union and the Baltic states recognizing that such agreements are opening the perspective of memberships of the Baltic states in the European Union.

The Ministers expressed the conviction that the further integration into Europe will contribute to the continued dynamic economic development of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania and to deepening of ties between the Baltic and Nordic countries. The Ministers explored the possibilities of giving Nordic country assistance to Baltic citizens in foreign countries where they are in Baltic consular representation, and decided to establish a joint expert group on this matter.

The Ministers decided to have the following [illegible] meeting in Copenhagen [Denmark] in 1995.

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ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 1 Sep

LD0109073094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0630 GMT 1 Sep 94

[''Press Review''—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow 1 Sep—«ITAR-TASS»—The withdrawal of Russian troops from Germany is a historic event in the life of Europe. This is reminded of numerous articles, commentaries and reports published by Russian newspapers today on the occasion of festivities held in Berlin.

A historic event has taken place, says ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA. Russian soldiers have said farewell to germans. They will celebrate the jubilee of the victory in their motherland (the RED STAR [KRASNAYA ZVEZDA]). Russian troops have left Germany with their heads up (ROSSIYSKAYE VESTI). The victorious army is leaving, let us hope that the withdrawal of Russian troops from Germany will be the beginning, rather than the end of a peace period in the life of humanity which began on May 9, 1945, the PRAVDA daily writes.

Many publications are devoted to the beginning of a new school year. ROSSIYSKAJE VESTI carries an interview with the Russian Education Minister Yevgeniy Tkachenko who dwells on problems of the Russian school and makes forecasts for the new school year. In his opinion, our system of education carrying a burden of many problems of moral and financial character is developing steadily and constructively.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA writes that the Russian school still deals with the liquidation of illiteracy. According to the newspaper the main drawback of the Russian school is that our school continues to liquidate illiteracy and teach summing up enormous amounts of worthless information (in schoolchildren's mouth—comment.) Education has challenged common sense, suppressed it, and any attempts at enlightening encounter resistance, the newspaper said.

ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA writes that budgetary allocations to education are declining. The newspaper says that the prospects for the differentiation in the living standards are being created by private schools and paid academies even more openly than under conditions of nomenclature inequality.''

The IZVESTIYA newspaper believes that school is still ready to teach. Despite the difficulties of floating on the chaotic world of our economy, school has survived and adheres to the once chosen course aimed at humanization of education resorting to the personality of a pupil.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA carries an interview with former chairman of the Russian Supreme Council Ruslan Khasbulatov, who expressed his opinion about developments in Chechnya. In an interview with the newspaper Khasbulatov said that Dudayev's regime in this republic is doomed to failure. ''Dudayev will be ousted and his days are numbered. However, I am afraid of post-Dudayev clashes. Armed groups will explode and each group will claim that it has won and should have temporary presidency,'' the newspaper quoted Khasbulatov as saying.

Speaking about his role in the settlement of the Chechen conflict Khasbulatov said that he sees himself only in the role of a moral leader without a state responsibility. In an interview with KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA he said that ''I am angered by Yeltsin's supporters. I shall become a president and whatever else just to spite them. I welcome the Russian leadership's support to the Chechen opposition. However, it should have happened two years ago, when Yeltsin encouraged Dudayev in every way,'' Khasbulatov said.

The IZVESTIYA daily writes that Russia and the United States have begun joint oil development. Large American investments began to work in our economy. On September 1, the first amount of oil developed by the joint Russo-American enterprise ''Polar Lights'' on the Gydanin oil field located in the Timan-Pechorsk region, will be sent running via Russia's pipeline system. Since that day, the polar lights set up by the American Konoko and the Russian ''Arkhangelskgeologiya'' enterprise will be given the right to export oil, the newspaper said.

PRAVDA carries a statement made the executive committee of the Russian Communist Party in connection with the extension of the term in office of the Federal Assembly and the postponement of the presidential elections until some time later. In this connection, the presidium of the Communist Party believes it is important to declare that the above-mentioned initiatives run contrary to the Russian constitution, main principles of democracy and a law- governed state. Therefore, the Communist Party begins to collect signatures of citizens who come out against the extension of the parliament's term in office and support early elections of the president, the statement said.

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Yeltsin Stresses Friendship in Berlin Speech

LD3108172694 Berlin N-TV in German 1720 GMT 31 Aug 94

[Speech by President Boris Yeltsin at the Rote Rathaus in Berlin; Yeltsin speaks in Russian with simultaneous translation into German—live]

[Text] Esteemed Herr Burgermeister, ladies and gentlemen, and the staff of the Berlin town hall!

I would like to say that today is truly a historic day. On exactly the same day and exactly the same hour as stated in the treaty signed by me and Helmut [Yeltsin pauses; a man prompts "Kohl" audibly; Yeltsin repeats] Kohl, federal chancellor and my friend, we are withdrawing our troops from Germany. Our friendship is not beginning just now, it began long ago, but this friendship will now be strong and everlasting. [pause as interpreter translates] Why are you not applauding? [Video shows Yeltsin makes a clapping sign with his hands, interpreter translates audience applauds]. Thank you. Danke schon. Guten tag. [Laughter; applause]

I am very pleased that Berlin is on friendly terms with Moscow, that the burgomaster knows our Moscow mayor quite well, and the other way around, and that they not only know each other but are also good friends and maintain a very close, um, so to speak, a very close cooperation. I have brought with me several senior administrators of those oblasts, krays, and cities that have strong ties with German industry, so that now, during the talks with Helmut Kohl, we can solve the problems still facing both you and us, in the name of our friendship and in the name of our mutual assistance.

Yes, both you and we have gone through a hard time. Our peoples had a difficult time. But the people are not to blame for this and they cannot be made responsible for the things that Hitler brought into life. Therefore, we say today, together with Germany's leaders, we state that we are developing a partnership, a real partnership of friends. And I would like to tell you this: this partnership of friends is indestructible and will never be destroyed. [applause]

As president, I am sure and confident that nothing else but friendship will develop between our people, only friendship, and that there will never be war. [applause]

Gives Troop Withdrawal High Marks

LD3108113494 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1600 GMT 31 Aug 94

[Text] Speaking to journalists in Berlin today, Russian President Boris Yeltsin rated the measures taken for the withdrawal of Russian troops from Germany and related ceremonies a rare A [abetyun plyus]. Yeltsin believes that the preparation for this event was not easy and that it went off well. Asked about the content of his talks with Federal Chancellor Helmut Kohl, Boris Yeltsin remarked that they touched upon both bilateral and international issues of a broad nature, including Yugoslavia.

Yeltsin Departs Berlin

LD3110065494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0737 GMT 1 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent]

[Text] Berlin September 1 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin who took part in the ceremonies of the completion of Russian troop withdrawal from Germany left Berlin on Thursday.

The heads of Russia and Germany described the completion of Russian troop withdrawal as the summary of the results of Europe's post-war development. Speaking at a reception at the Russian Embassy in the evening of August 31, Yeltsin expressed the hope that the completion of Russian troop withdrawal from the territory of the FRG will be a starting point for the implementation of joint declarations on the priority of relations of partners between Russia and Germany.

Defense Minister on Withdrawal From Germany

LD3109133994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2049 GMT 1 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Vyacheslav Kovtyukov, Gennadiy Kulibenko, and Anna Melnikova]

[Text] Berlin September 1 TASS— The first joint marching-past of Russian and German servicemen, the Russian brigade in Berlin and a battalion of the Bundeswehr's guard of honour, held on Wednesday in the Treptow Park in the framework of ceremonies to mark the completion of the Russian troop withdrawal from Germany is symbolic of future development of relations between the two countries. Bonn leaders believe the completion of Russian troop withdrawal will set the beginning to a new stage of Russo-German cooperation, also in military areas.

"We leave Germany with a sense of a duty fulfilled and with heads held high. Cooperation, specifically in the military area, will continue" Pavel Grachev, Russian defence minister, who participated in the Berlin ceremonies, said on Thursday in an exclusive interview to ITAR-TASS.

"At the same time, from human viewpoint, those who served in Germany regret leaving it" the Russian defence minister said. "And local German population, with whom I had much contact, bid farewell to us with regret, too" Grachev said. "Don't go. We got friends with you," people say. "This is explained both from the viewpoint of friendship and from the viewpoint of economy. Russian military cantonments in eastern German districts provided jobs for thousands of local people" the minister said. "The Russian delegation in

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Berlin takes pride in our forces that jointly with troops of other countries ensured peace in Europe. We believe the presence of our troops had a beneficial effect on post-war development in Europe."

The defense minister has some regrets in connection with the withdrawal of Russian forces from Germany. "I regret that the agreement which envisaged the withdrawal within four years has been unobjective. First of all, the term is too short. It is extremely difficult to resolve social problems within this period, even though the German side largely financed various programmes for troop withdrawal. Therefore there exists certain social tension. I believe that 15 years would have been the optimum term for recalling home such a large number of people. As many as 700 thousand people, including 320 thousand servicemen, returned home", the defense minister said.

"What is your opinion of social security for servicemen, including those recalled from Germany", the minister was asked. "I believe social programmes for servicemen, for objective and subjective reasons, are insufficiently fulfilled. The German side fully honours its obligations for housing construction. Not so Russian contractors. This is explained, above all, by the shortage of funds. The construction of a number of houses started back in 1992 had to be stopped, although we look for possibilities of extrabudgetary financing. It is not for nothing that the Russian president, at his request, appointed as deputy defense minister Colonel-General Matvey Burlakov, who was supreme commander of the Western Group of Forces. Over the next two or three years he will be dealing with matters of social security of servicemen, above all with housing construction. He has vast experience, is acquainted with chiefs of administrations and has considerable managerial skills. I hope that social problems will be resolved quicker with his appointment to this post", Grachev said.

Analysis on Russian-German Talks, Troop Withdrawal

LD1509134594 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1400 GMT 11 Sep 94

[Excerpt] Today Berlin was bidding a ceremonial farewell to the Russian troops returning from Germany to their country. Our special correspondent Marina Maksyutova reports on the evening program of the festivities.

[Maksyutova] After all the official events were concluded, the send-off has really got into its stride with songs, toasts, embraces, and promises not to forget one another.

The Russian delegation went to a reception at the embassy. Literally 15 minutes prior to this, [Russian Foreign Minister] Andrey Kozyrev conducted a short news conference so that together with his German colleague he could say something about the results of the Russian-German talks held on Wednesday. All the issues touched on in one way or another dealt with wars and weapons, not just with the withdrawal of Russian troops. Not also with the situation in Serbia and also the Yugoslavian struggling. We discussed this issue not just because the phenomenon is from Russia, but because Russia is most interested in the safety and reliability of its troops", Kozyrev said, having stressed that today, also in accordance with the accords, Russian troops were withdrawn not just from Germany, but also from Latvia and Estonia, so it is clear to everyone that Moscow can keep its word. [passage omitted]

Foreign Ministry Issues Statement on Karabakh Talks

LD1509132094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0622 GMT 15 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Andrey Nesov]

[Text] Moscow, 15 Sep—A political agreement ending the armed conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh can only be achieved if the parties display flexibility and make balanced concessions to each other. This is noted in a statement issued by the Russian Foreign Ministry on the eve of today's Armenian-Azerbaijani talks in Moscow which will be mediated by Russia.

Moscow welcomes the fact that Baku, Yerevan, and Stepanakert have recently issued special statements expressing satisfaction with the fact that all sides are complying with the Russian-mediated cease fire in Nagorno-Karabakh and along the Armenian-Azerbaijani border, which began on 12 May this year. According to the Russian Foreign Ministry, the defense ministers of Azerbaijan, Armenia, and Nagorno Karabakh have reinforced their cease-fire orders. Furthermore each side has announced measures to permit possible cease-fire violators and shows determination to observe the cease-fire arrangements until a political agreement is reached. All this gives added confidence that the peace process in Karabakh can be made irreversible, the statement says.

The Russian Foreign Ministry will be as constructive as possible in its mediation efforts. It hopes that representatives of the various parties have been instructed to work patiently and steadfastly for compromise solutions to disputed questions. It is now very important for the international community, above all CIS, CSCE, and UN bodies, to support the efforts which are being made, the Foreign Ministry statement says.

Moscow Lacks 'Trump Cards To Put Pressure' on China

MM0109083194 Moscow *OPINION* in Russian 1 Sep 94 p 1

[Report by Vladimir Skosyrev: "Neither Washington Nor Moscow Is Offering Beijing a Bribe. The Former Out of Love for the Law, the Latter Out of Poverty."]

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[Text] Beijing—U.S. Secretary of Commerce Ron Brown has arrived in China. He is accompanied by captains of U.S. big business, including representatives of the Westinghouse, Bell, and Chrysler Corporations.

Brown has said frankly that the purpose of the visit is to bring home contracts for U.S. companies worth several billion dollars. The moment also interests the President Clinton's instructions, to plead for Chinese dissidents behind bars and remind Beijing of the need to observe human rights.

As for the lucky logic, the PRC has graphically demonstrated to the world that it has no intentions of heeding any warnings. On the day the secretary arrived the police arrested and subjected to a lengthy cross-examination Wang Dang, one of the few Chinese oppositionists who openly criticize the authorities. And since Washington granted China most-favored-nation status in trade back in May, Brown is left heading virtually no trump cards to put pressure on his Chinese partners.

The picture as regards the contracts is no clear. China has said that it wants to attract U.S. capital into the infrastructure sphere, primarily into the construction of power stations and railroads. But Japan, members of the European Union, and even Russia are also seeking these deals.

The point is that Japan and the West European states are bolstering their applications with preferential loans, that is with financial aid for China or, as the well-known Hong Kong economist Mark Fisher said, "legal bribes."

Russia is unable to take part in this contest for obvious reasons and the United States is prevented from doing so by a law dating back 40 years that prohibits exports being linked with financial aid. If Washington finds a way of getting round the ban, the owners of Russian industry will have to deal with opposition from another powerful rival on the Chinese market.

PRC To Pay for Some Imports in Hard Currency

LD1108133594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1029 GMT 11 Aug 94

[By TASS-BUSINESS]

[Text] Moscow 11 Aug—A protocol on trading and economic cooperation between Russia and China will be signed during PRC Chairman Jiang Zemin's visit to Russia beginning 2 September, a TASS-BUSINESS correspondent was informed today at the Russian Foreign Economic Relations Ministry.

The document will determine the volume of interstate interrelated deliveries that, in the current year, is worth the equivalent of 795 million Swiss francs. The protocol will, for the first time, record the Chinese party's obligation to pay for a part of the Russian goods in freely convertible currency.

Integrally supplied equipment for installations being built in China, including three large thermal power stations as well as aviation technology and other machine-building output, accounts for much of Russia's exports. China supplies Russia mainly with food and consumer goods.

Commentator Views Possible Reform Opponents in PRC

LD0811123194 Moscow Radio Mayak in Mandarin 1000 GMT 29 Jul 94

[Article by station commentator Mudalov: "Are There Many Opponents Against China's Reform?" from the "Half an Hour With Wang Xiao" program]

[Text] Listeners! Due to Chinese President Jiang Zemin's upcoming visit to Russia, Ukraine, and France, there have been many news reports about China and reports from China in the past few days. Of these reports, quite a few mentioned U.S. Secretary of Commerce Brown's current visit to China. According to Brown, the purpose of his visit is to usher in a new era in Sino-U.S. economic and trade relations. The fact that Russia and China will hold a summit meeting and that China has adopted a positive diplomatic strategy toward Russia and Western countries has concealed China's internal events and disputes. Meanwhile, our station commentator Mudalov says in his article that the so-called left-wing opposition factions are reemerging in China and criticizing the state's reform policies.

The article says: The commercialization of China's market reforms will permit people to forget about socialist principles and may lead to the political failure of the Communist Party, which is Chinese society's leading force. This is a conclusion reached by China's left-wing opposition factions. Although such opposition factions have suffered a major failure under Deng Xiaoping's reform policies, they still have their own ideological front in China. Those with conservative views continue to directly and covertly criticize Deng Xiaoping's reform policies to make their existence known to the people.

According to news reports from Beijing, not long ago Director Shu Jiatuan of the Central Party History Research Center was dismissed for chairing an illegal seminar. The meeting's participants criticized a set of official statements—that is, to adhere to the reform policies and Deng Xiaoping's thinking for a hundred years. Shu Jiatuan is regarded as a key conservative element opposing Deng Xiaoping, and he is a successor to former deputy head Deng Liqun of the Propaganda Department under the CPC Central Committee. It has been learned that Deng Liqun reached the conclusion that if China continues to carry out economic reform, the CPC is doomed to failure.

What is interesting is that advocates of Deng Xiaoping's thinking believe that the people can be saved and that the leadership of China can be maintained only if the

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market economic reforms succeed. Another interesting thing is that not long before the celebration of Deng Xiaoping's 90th birthday, a publishing house in a Chinese province published a book written by a noted German and China hand, Gregory Kuczing. China With a Three Eye. The author did not mention the reform architect's name, but he criticized the reform strategy designed by him. For example, the author held that the low economic policies are resulting in the emergence of many active volunteers in China's rural areas which will erupt at any time. To avoid this, the author suggested a partial restoration of Mao Zedong's agricultural policy. What is rather interesting is that after this book was published, neither experts nor scholars had heard of this well-known German old China hand. According to the belief of authoritative sources, it is quite possible that the name is a pen name. The author may be a conservative and hawk who earlier had held high-ranking party and government posts. No matter what the truth is, it gives us much food for thought that a publishing house in a Chinese province has published this book that criticizes reform policies that have led to China's enjoying the world's highest economic growth rate over the past 15 years.

Allegations of No Recognized Border With Japan Dismissed

LD0209011494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2040 GMT 1 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Yurkin]

[Text] Moscow September 1 (TASS)—Russian naval border guards are fulfilling their tasks protecting the state border in strict compliance with Russian laws and international norms, said Vice Admiral Viktor Kozlovskiy, commander of Russian naval border guards, in an interview with ITAR-TASS today. He dismissed as groundless allegations made by some publications alleging that no officially recognized border exists between Russia and Japan and consequently, no one knows what border guards are protecting in this region from the point of view of international law.

The state border in the area of South Kurile Islands lies in the middle of Kunashir and South Kurile Straits, which conforms to international law and Russian naval border guards must protect and defend it, he said.

Commenting on "mysterious shots and explosions" reported by some world news agency quoting the Japanese Department for Safety at Sea, Kozlovskiy pointed out that last Monday naval border guard troops held no large-scale naval exercises in the area of the South Kurile Islands, involving shooting exercises. According to the established world practice, this is announced beforehand and navigation in the designated area of the sea is suspended. Naval border guard troops strictly abide by the rules of preliminary warning, Kozlovskiy said.

Another stage of large-scale anti-poaching campaign "Putina '94" to defend Russia's marine resources is being held in the area of South Kuriles. Conventional combat training, including shooting exercises, are not interrupted, since the improvement of skills of military commanders and units is a normal thing in all naval border guard units of different countries.

In accordance with the Russian legislation, ships perpetrating Russia's state border are entitled to fire warning shots and open demonstrative fire to cut short illegal activities. In exceptional cases, targeted shells are used at a violator vessel which disobeys orders and poses a threat to navigation, as happened on August 11. On this day, a border guard ship prevented Japanese poachers' boats from violating the state border.

In the admiral's opinion, the Japanese Department for Safety at Sea is well aware of the situation in the area of South Kuriles, which increasingly often turns into a conflict area. However, the Japanese Department for Safety at Sea does not prevent illegal activities of Japanese poachers and one might get the impression that this department stands to win by creating tensions on the border.

"This accounts for the noise stirred up by the Japanese Department for Safety at Sea in connection with alleged submachine gun fire in the area of South Kuriles," the vice-admiral said.

Official Says Russia Wants Relations With Iraq

LD1108221994 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1411 GMT 11 Sep 94

[Text] Moscow, 11 Aug (INA)—Mikhail Taraev, assistant for economic affairs to the Russian prime minister, has stressed his country's desire to resume relations with Iraq and to work seriously to lift the economic blockade imposed on it.

During his reception of the Iraqi ambassador in Moscow today, Taraev said that this stand is prompted by the two countries' deep and interrelated economic interests and by Russia's persisting desire to end the suffering of the Iraqi people and provide for their human needs.

The Iraqi ambassador then explained the impact of the unjust economic blockade imposed on Iraq, as well as the suffering of the Iraqi people, particularly children, the elderly, and women, as a result of the shortage of medicine and food.

The ambassador said that Iraq wants Russia to exert the necessary efforts to lift the blockade, which has also hurt Russia's economy and compelled many Russian establishments in Iraq to close.

Article on Russian Rights in Baltic States

LD1010063294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1440 GMT 11 Sep 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature by diplomatic correspondents Aleksandr Kozyrev, Igor Pivovarov, Yevgeniy Terekhov and others]

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[Text] Russia has its ways of influencing Baltic countries if they violate the rights of the Russian community, the Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Kovalev has told Interfax.

He meant "generally accepted political, moral, economic and other possible ways." In this case Russia will expect assistance from countries that categorically insisted on the withdrawal of Russian troops from Baltic states.

The diplomat ruled out military pressure and said that no peaceful possibility should be dropped. He said military steps should not be resorted to before all other ones have been used.

At the same time Kovalev said that at least today there are no reasons to doubt the observance of agreements on the rights of the Russian community in Baltic countries. He said the agreements, in particular the one with Estonia on retired army officers, offers reliable guarantees of implementation. "This document concerning a concrete family will not depend on the arbitrary work of an individual official." "And we are going to follow that closely," the diplomat stressed.

Kovalev said that in the future Russia will remain in touch with ethnic Russians, primarily those who keep Russian citizenship. He said that those who are going to accept local citizenship will pose a greater problem.

"We cannot tell another state how it should treat its citizens, Kovalev said. I cannot say that we will dramatize ourselves completely. But in this case the problems will be largely cultural and concern the preservation of Russian culture and language in that part of Europe."

Official Says Russia Favors Indian UNSC Membership

LD2105080294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0629 GMT 31 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Yuriy Kuzmin]

[Text] Moscow, 31 Aug—India may aspire to membership of the UN Security Council if the part of the UN Charter on accepting new members is changed, R. Sreenivasan, Indian secretary for external affairs, said at a news conference at the Indian embassy in Moscow on the results of his official visit to Russia, which ended today.

Russia, said Sreenivasan, is sympathetic on the issue. He said, if the issue of the Security Council membership is reviewed at the 49th session of the UN General Assembly opening in September, a number of states will receive an opportunity to become full members of the organization. Among them, India could count on this, "providing it meets the Council's new criteria," the diplomat added.

He told journalists that consultations on the eve of the next session of the UN General Assembly were one of the key issues of his visit to the Russian capital. In his words, the two countries hold similar positions on many topical international problems. Sreenivasan expressed the opinion that the UN as an organization should gradually "reform itself" to meet the requirements of the new international situation which emerged after the end of the Cold War. At present the UN has 184 members, its membership expanded in recent years, perhaps, there is need to expand the membership of the UN Security Council, he said.

Foreign Secretary Suggests Indian Peacekeepers

LD2108172494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1618 GMT 31 Aug 94

[Text] The possibility of Indian peacekeeping units separating warring parties in the CIS was discussed during the visit to Russia of Indian Foreign Secretary Krishnan Sreenivasan.

Sreenivasan said at a news conference in Moscow Wednesday that his visit had taken place in the framework of consultations between the two foreign ministries on bilateral and international issues.

In particular, reform of the UN which will be on the agenda of the UN General Assembly session next fall was discussed. Sreenivasan said that the two sides had focused on expansion of the Security Council, disarmament and a complete ban on nuclear tests. He emphasized that an understanding had been reached on all the issues.

Sreenivasan said that the future visit of Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin had also been discussed.

Gavdar Leads Delegation to Serbia

LD2108172094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1653 GMT 31 Aug 94

[Text] Russia's Democratic Choice, whose political council is chaired by Yegor Gaydar, who also heads the largest State Duma faction Russia's Choice, departed for Serbia on invitation of the Serbian Democratic party.

Russia's Democratic Choice Party told Interfax that the delegation will stay in the Balkans for four days. It will meet with representatives of the Serbian government, democratic party, and other political forces. Along with Gaydar in the delegation are also other members of the party's political council, State Duma deputies from the Russia's Choice faction Viktor Zolotukin, Arkadiy Murashov and Vladimir Tetekhin.

In his interview with Interfax Gaydar pointed out that "it is absolutely incorrect for those who do not represent anyone in Russia, who are adventurers trying to earn political capital, to monopolize on the great wealth of Russia's and Yugoslavia's ties."

Gaydar stressed the importance to achieve "joint efforts of the world powers in order to prevent unilateral actions in the Balkans."

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Maritime Kray To Host Far East Banking Congress

[Unattributed report: "Investments Flow into Russian Ports"]

[Text] Major European and Asian-Pacific banks will be taking part in the first Far East Banking Congress to be held in Vladivostok 7-10 September. The Maritime Kray Administration is organizing the financial forum and wants to draw attention to the Russian region's economic problems.

In the view of observers, the investment climate in the region has great prospects.

A number of foreign banks are already funding the construction of a petroleum depot and a fertilizer processing complex in the deep-water port of Vostochnyy and the modernization of the Nakhodka maritime trading port and have purchased rouble bonds for the construction of oil tankers for the Maritime Steamship Company.

During the congress in Vladivostok there will be an exhibition of the major investment projects in which foreign banks and firms are showing interest.

'Korsar' of Moscow Wins Battle for Cyprus Air Route

[Report by Igor Gubanov: "The 'Korsar' Aviation Company Has Come Out Top in the Dispute for Flights to Cyprus"]

[Text] The competition between Russian aviation transport sectors vying with each other for the right to fly a regular Moscow-Paphos-Cyprus-Moscow route has been won by the capital's "Korsar" company, leading off the two rivals. It is worth noting that this company ranks as the second—after "Transaero" cheap-express firm—independent "civilian" which has managed to break into the international market for regular passenger traffic.

Let us remember also that the Russian Federation Ministry of Transport (its Transport Department) launched the competition after conflict arose between the state-owned "civilian Russian International Airlines" and the small joint-stock companies ALAK [expansion unknown] and "Transaero" over the equally lucrative Cyprus route between Moscow and Larnaca (see IZVESTIYA, 6 Nov 1993 and 30 Apr 1994). On this occasion, the subject of profound debate, in which the Air Transport Department Licensing Commission acted as mediator, was cheap regular route from the Russian capital to Paphos International Airport on the west coast of Cyprus. Having won the competition over "Vnukovskiye Avialinii" and ALAK, "Korsar" is already flying to Paphos twice a week.

The company's Commercial Director Mikhail Korotov believes that it won because "Korsar" was first to take on this route, which it has been flying since fall last year, and it has forged good partnership relations with the local "Cyprus Airways" and the Cyprus representation of "Aeroflot."

Created in the fall of 1991, "Korsar" runs regular flights along two routes within Russia, it possesses licenses for charter flights to 21 countries of the world, and a fleet comprising one of its own and 22 leased liners, ranging from the smaller Yak-40 to the intercontinental IL-62. The aviation company has also founded a tourist agency of the same name, taking tourists and vacationers abroad from Moscow and Tyumen Oblast. Next year, "Korsar" intends to avail itself of a "wind" Boeing-737 and Boeing-300 and to use them primarily for the Paphos route.

Azvestia Urged To Limit 'Concessions' to West

[Editorial report] Moscow IZVESTIYA [EXTRA] in Russian 17 Aug 94 p 3

["Opinion" column by Vladimir Pavlov: "Russia and the West: From a Stormy Love Affair to Common Sense"]

[Text] So the United States has granted Belorussia [Belarus] and Uzbekistan the right to free trade on its territory, since those states, in the opinion of U.S. statesmen, are "sufficiently economically developed and are pursuing a policy of radical reforms in accordance with their recommendations." This fact cannot be received by any uninterested observer other than with a feeling of deep moral satisfaction. But I, for my part, am an interested observer—every now and then doubts creep into my mind.

Let us begin, for example, with the fact that both the aforementioned states are still blacklisted in the West. U.S. and European politicians have never let slip an opportunity to call them "preservers of communism" or "the last breeding grounds of stagnation," to accuse them of human rights violations, and to hold up democratic and consistently reformist Russia as an example for their edification. Nevertheless we have not yet been offered such trade privileges, and it is not known when they will be offered to us. Is not the point that Belorussia and Uzbekistan had been actively seeking to restore closer links within the CIS? And doesn't the U.S. authorities' decision perhaps pursue the goal of somewhat cooling the ardor of fraternal love between our republics?

Meanwhile there has indeed been a marked "cooling off" in our own relations with the West. The best evidence of this is the furor over the smuggling of radioactive materials to Germany. There is still no proof of the charges leveled against us by Helmut Kohl that Russia is the

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[illegible] source of this lethal trade. [illegible] he is already demanding that our nuclear power industry be placed under international supervision.

Naturally the abolition of the KGB, which traditionally dealt with this issue, and the absence from the state budget of money to finance nuclear programs are literally pushing all those with access to radioactive materials onto the path of smuggling. This is why to dismiss the incident out of hand without proof is to behave like the aforementioned Kohl. However, it is impossible not to notice the fact that this smuggling did not start overnight and that dangerous raw materials have been exported, and are still being exported, by no means from Russia alone. Yet information about the secret trade in Russian plutonium has not simply trickled through to the mass media but has descended on them like an avalanche. Again the question arises: Why? Is it not because the nuclear power industry is right now one of the few sectors of Russian industry that is still competitive in the world market?

It is no secret that our country's economic situation would not be so serious if it could trade with Western countries on equal terms. Russia has already made a whole series of political concessions for the purpose of removing the artificial trade barriers in the way of our exports. Our citizens were granted the freedom to travel abroad, our troops successively left the far and then the near abroad, the country signed up to all international economic sanctions against various regimes that had offended the world community—many of which were our most profitable trading partners (has anyone calculated our losses?). But every time that the latest conditions have been fulfilled, the West has put forward new ones.

In the latest phase, in addition to the aforementioned demand for supervision of the nuclear power industry, I expect yet another demand to appear—for the settlement of the territorial disputes with Estonia (and at the same time with Latvia, which will happily exploit the Russian-Estonian diplomatic conflict as a pretext for raising the question of ownership of the contested Pytalovskiy Rayon in the Pskov area).

It would appear that, whether we like it or not, Russia's protracted "honeymoon" with the West has come to an end. Whether it will be followed by a period of family rifts depends on the Kremlin leadership. In order to avoid this it is sufficient to follow the example of smaller powers. Rather than cause a scandal, clearly and unambiguously state what concessions do not affect your principles and what others, despite all your love for your partner, he or she cannot expect you to make.

Otto Latsis Reflects on Pullout From Europe

MK110019 Moscow [illegible] in Russian 11 Sep 96 pp 1, 7

[Article by Otto Latsis: "Russians Going Home"]

[Text] The withdrawal of Russian troops from "further abroad" and from the Baltic countries is coming to an end. We are so preoccupied with the socioeconomic, military-political, and purely technical aspects of this complex process that that we appear not to notice at all the historic change in the status of our state. Russia is ceasing to be a country with forces abroad, at any rate outside the former Soviet Union. Except for a small number of technical personnel in Cuba, Vietnam, Latvia (as long as the radar in Skrunda is operating) and in Estonia (where the equipment in Paldiski is being dismantled)—and also the Russian subunits that form part of UN forces, but that is another matter altogether.

It is very difficult to remember now how long ago we ceased to be in the normal position of a country whose soldiers are at home in peacetime. It must be 1939 at least, or 57 years ago. The abnormal situation, which has lasted for an incredibly long time, has begun to be accepted as the norm. You would never really be able to calculate what it has cost the country, if only in economic terms. Even if you do not count the "limited contingent" in Afghanistan (it was a peculiarly terrible war, the economic losses were not the most severe), if you count only our forces' groups abroad which did not fight. In East Europe, in Mongolia and several other countries hundreds of thousands, sometimes as many as a million young, skilled working people, potentially the best in the country, were producing nothing. In fact, the trucks of the labor of several million more people were being used up supplying them with weapons and equipment and earning the hard currency for their upkeep. And so it went on for half a century!

Commentators of a particular political bent link the problems of our forces' presence in European countries and the problems of their withdrawal exclusively to the question of the national pride of victors in a great war. But the victors in the previous Patriotic War, the soldiers of Kutuzov, did not stay in France for 50 years after the overthrow of Napoleon, and that fact did not hurt their descendants' national pride.

The question is not what motivated the social stratum for whom service abroad was a privilege, paid for by the labor of the rest of the country's population. Nor is it what the senior imperial policy makers' dream was. Their motives are clear. The question is what justification there was for such a strange situation in the view of the vast majority of the country's population—the majority who had to face shortages of apartments, schools, hospitals, and all the other essentials to pay for all this. What for?

The justification was fear of a sudden attack by an unknown enemy—fear that was a reminder of 22 June, of foreign aircraft flying over columns of defenseless refugees, of the conflagrations all over occupied territory, of the death camps, which swallowed up millions of people. There were those who fed this fear, personifying it as an obsession and skillfully exploiting it, shaping the mass

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that the country that had suffered the most casualties in the war had a special moral right. How else could they justify, for example, nearly a quarter of a century after the war, the invasion of Czechoslovakia, our ally both in World War II and in the unhappy year of 1968, a peaceful, sovereign country after all?

The USSR's security interests, as interpreted by our rulers, were passed off as the supreme imperative of international law. It had been the custom ever since the 1920s—which the older generation would remember—to cite the "beholders of history" which sought to justify the invasion of the Baltic area and Poland after the event. It was many years before it was realized that it was this policy that represented the greatest danger to the Soviet Union. Remember the resistance even in the perestroika era to the very acknowledgement of the existence of the Molotov–Ribbentrop pact.

Sakharov was one of the first to say that the possession of enormous power to destroy does not in itself guarantee security and could in fact be a source of danger. There then appeared the calculations confirming the "nuclear winter" hypothesis and leading to the paradoxical conclusion that, even if all the strikes were carried out exclusively against enemy territory, death would be inevitable. Chernobyl confirmed, in stark practice rather than in mere theory how dangerous it is to possess a force that you cannot control. The Afghan war confirmed this in its own way. It is sometimes more difficult getting out than going in.

The history of the Afghan war continues, but now in Tajikistan, and again it is proving difficult to get out. Yet we pulled back from the Berlin Wall, the debris from which, in other circumstances, could have buried the whole of mankind. We withdrew from Mongolia without having clashed with China, as on occasions seemed very imminent. In yet another sphere of life we had become a normal country with normal preoccupations.

"We have done with war: pack up your greatcoat and go home." In the song it all appears to conform to normal human logic. In real life it is the grandchildren of the victors of 1945 who are finally going home on the eve of the 50th anniversary of the Victory. Going home, leaving behind an era that encompassed a great deal of both good and evil.

At the very start of those 50 years those serving in Germany were people who had liberated Europe and stormed the Reichstag. They guaranteed the de-Nazification and demilitarization of the nest from which Hitlerism had crawled. But in 1953 Soviet forces were used against the GDR people, who were disgruntled with the new totalitarian system, and in 1956 they were used against the people of Hungary. Maybe this paved the way for the possibility of using them against the people of Russia, in Novocherkassk.

At the very start of the 50 years our soldiers' service abroad contained a significant element of objective necessity. No two ways about it. Mankind was beginning, even in this monstrous form, the quest for a new system of general equilibrium—nuclear era equilibrium. The immense power that remained available after World War II turned the heads not only of Stalin's strategists. There were generals in the world who had seen the effects of the atomic bomb not just on the test site but on real cities, and they were not our generals. But in 1962 it was the Soviet military and its missiles in Cuba that were almost responsible for turning the entire planet into a Hiroshima.

A new equilibrium has not been found even today. The operation in Kuwait, Yugoslavia's obstinate self-destruction, and the tragedy in Rwanda show how difficult it is to create the means. But the impasses in Korea, Vietnam, and Afghanistan have at least left mankind with knowledge of the ways in which its problems cannot be solved. The generation that is coming home today from foreign parts in Europe is not just inheriting the memory of all that has gone before. It has its own role in history. It is the generation of those who went home. They had the courage to go. To go not because they were frightened by a foreign force. Our nuclear missile cudgel would frighten anyone even today. But to go because they could see that not everything can be done by force.

So have we done with war?

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Political Issues

Shokhin Forecasts New Wave of Antigovernment Protest

LD3108021994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1821 GMT 31 Aug 94

[Text] With the summer vacations at an end and politicians returning to Moscow, Russian Vice Premier and Finance Minister Aleksandr Shokhin has forecast that this September could see the government once again being accused of ruining the economy.

Shokhin told Interfax on Wednesday that if his prediction were to come true, then "the wave of criticism would fall on quite different ground than at the beginning of the year or at this time last year."

He said the economic position was more stable and that the Cabinet "should work out some kind of stabilization program. Investment policy must be based on new market mechanisms not on old state plan methods." Shokhin said that private capital should be mobilized and that there should be "a joining of forces between private Russian investors and timely-tuned government injections." He said that it had not been possible to realize such a project at the beginning of the year, however "the end of 1994 and the beginning of 1995 should see this system put into practice."

He said that the process of stabilization "will force politicians of all sides who are not part of the government to become more active, since in a few months ordinary Russians will see the improvements for themselves. This will make it more difficult to find arguments for the removal of the government or for early presidential elections. If Yavlinskiy, on the one hand, or Zyuganov, on the other, start seeking a place in government, then this shows that they are desperate to show Gaidar's stabilization happened literally within a week of them joining the Cabinet."

"As long as there are no political catastrophes," continued Shokhin, "some political leader or other will seek key positions in the government. We have already seen such a movement from politicians of all political hues. We will soon know whether this will lead to a shake up in the cabinet or to a push for a vote of no confidence in the government this October."

Shokhin To Represent Yeltsin at Treaty Talks

LD3108170994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1258 GMT 31 Aug 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin appointed RF [Russian Federation] Vice Premier Aleksandr Shokhin to be his official representative at the Federal Assembly during consideration of the issue on ratification of the Russian-American Treaty "On Encouragement and Mutual Protection of Investments." Yeltsin has signed an appropriate order, the presidential press service reported.

New Body To Strengthen Liaison With Parliament

MK1108115094 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 31 Aug 94 p

[Report by Kirill Yarov under the "Dotting the I's" rubric: "Will the Directorate Help the President Make Friends With Parliament?"]

[Text] Apparently it is actually the case that the president's relations with parliament will now be broadened, deepened, and solidified in a fundamental fashion.

In place of the modest department for liaison with parties and social organizations which existed until just recently in the framework of the president's administration, an entire directorate is being created. On the whole the process of reorganizing departments into directorates and directorates into main directorates is as old as the country itself. Andrey Loginov has been placed at the head of the new institutional unit, while it must be supposed that Georgiy Satarov, presidential assistant in charge of relations with the Federal Assembly, will handle operational control of the directorate.

The announced functions of the new strategic directorate are multifaceted—they were, of course, more than the department could handle. They include the collection and compilation of initiatives and proposals of the political parties, and of the opinions of their leaders concerning questions of the president's policies, the discovery of the political positions of the factions, an analysis of the programmatic documents of the parties, the presentation of proposals for improving relations with the deputies of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly for the president's consideration, etc.

In principle, half of the functions for which the newly created directorate is responsible are normally fulfilled by a free press. And in addition, there do exist purely analytical services and directorates in the ever growing presidential administration. And in general concerning the solution of strategic issues dealing with mutual relations, it does not make sense to "send them winging about the various offices of the administration" since they require immediate reactions. Isn't it the abundance of new directorates which causes the constant delay in the Kremlin's decision making on many issues?

Duma Official Demands Yeltsin Aide's Dismissal

MM0109111194 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 1 Sep 94 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Threats to Judges"]

[Text] Viktor Ilyukhin, chairman of the State Duma Security Committee, yesterday sent an open letter to

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Russian Federation President B.N. Yeltsin. It states that, at the conference devoted to the events of August 1991 held in Moscow 19 August this year, persons claiming to be voices of democracy were heard to threaten the Russian Federation Supreme Court Military Collegium judges who acquitted V.I. Varennikov.

This constituted an attempt to infringe the independence of the judiciary and to dictate terms to the judges as to what sentences they should pass on whom.

It is deplorable that G. Filatov, leader of the Presidential Staff and also co-chairman of the Russian Federation presidential Council on Cadre Policy, who took part in the conference, supported the antijudicial hysteria, assuring those present that the members of the Military Collegium who passed the acquittal would not be recommended to the Federal Assembly for ratification in their posts.

By making statements of this kind the high-ranking official discredits the very idea of a rule-of-law state.

It is to be regretted, the letter goes on to state, that the statement by Filatov, who deems it possible to decide for the president whom to recommend for posts as Russian Supreme Court judges, has not yet been repudiated and that no measures have been taken against him. For Filatov to remain in the post which he holds following such disgraceful conduct, which smacks of political obscurantism, does palpable harm to the country's prestige.

Yeltsin Message to Ecological Forum

[LD1109164894 *Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian* 0747 GMT 11 Aug 94]

[Text] Moscow, 11 Aug (ITAR-TASS)—Russian President Boris Yeltsin has sent greetings to the participants of the Ninth General Assembly of the international organization of parliamentarians for a balanced environment (Globe International). The text of the message, circulated by the Russian president's press service, is as follows.

"I send heartfelt greetings to the participants of the Ninth General Assembly of the international organization of parliamentarians for a balanced environment (Globe International) who have gathered in Moscow.

"Ecology acknowledges no state borders. The problems of preserving forests, reducing the release of gases that cause the greenhouse effect, preserving the biological secrets of our planet, and using rationally resources of land and sea zones and the open ocean call for coordinating the efforts of scientists, politicians, and legislators of different countries.

"The fact that Russia became a member of Globe International in 1992 and set up an inter-parliamentary committee, Globe Russia, has opened up new possibilities in this important affair. We are grateful to Globe International for its support of the moratorium on nuclear tests announced by Russia, France, the United States, and Great Britain. This promotes international detente and the movement for the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. In the course of the 'Peleng operation,' Russia is implementing Globe International initiatives to protect the internal territories of the Sea of Okhotsk and the Bering Sea. I have no doubt cooperation between parliamentarians will start off new undertakings in the sphere of environmental protection.

"The totalitarian system has left our country a bad heritage: An over-militarized economy and pollution over much of the European part of Russia, the Urals, and southern Siberia. Russia was also affected by the Chernobyl disaster. But at the same time over 50 percent of Russian territory still retains its originally pure state. The purifying of polluted territories, a transition to new progressive ecological technologies in industrial regions, and the preservation of the virgin forests, lakes, and rivers of Siberia, Altay, the Savan mountains, and the Far East are two indivisible parts of Russia's ecological policy.

"I wish the participants of the Ninth Globe International General Assembly successful work for the good of our planet's biosphere, and I wish them happiness and prosperity."

Yeltsin Orders Computerized Voting System Funds

[EDITION] *Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian* 05 Aug 94 *First Edition p 4*

[Russian Federation Presidential Edict No. 1725 on the Development and Creation of the Russian Federation State Automated System "Vybory" signed by Russian President Boris Yeltsin and dated 23 August, Moscow]

[Text] With the aim of improving computer-based support for the Russian Federation's voting system, cutting the time taken to compute the results of voting, and reducing the financial outlay on election campaigns, I resolve:

1. Work is to be started on developing and creating the Russian Federation state automated system "Vybory." The first quarter of 1996 is to be the date set for putting the first phase of the system into experimental operation.

2. The Russian Federation Central Electoral Commission is to be the general ordering authority for the Russian Federation state automated system "Vybory."

3. The Russian Federation President's Committee for Computerization Policy, with the participation of the Russian Federation Federal Agency for Government Communications and Information, is to provide backup for the development and creation of the Russian Federation state automated system "Vybory."

The choice of general contractor for the development and creation of the Russian Federation's state automated

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system "Vybory" are to be vested in the Russian Federation President's Committee for Computerization Policy.

4. The Russian Federation's Federal Agency for Government Communications and Information is to be responsible for the telecommunications exchange of information requiring protection within the Russian Federation state automated system "Vybory."

5. The Russian Federation Government is to provide in the draft federal budgets for the years 1995 and 1996 appropriations for the Russian Federation Central Electoral Commission for the development and creation of the Russian Federation state automated system "Vybory" and to ensure their timely allocation.

6. This edict comes into force from the moment of its signing.

[Signed] Boris Yeltsin, president of the Russian Federation

The Kremlin, Moscow
25 August 1994

Communists Collect Signatures for Early Elections

LD3108174694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1742 GMT 31 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[Text] Moscow August 31 TASS—The Communist Party of the Russian Federation begins collecting signatures of citizens favouring the early presidential elections and opposing an extension of the term of the present parliament, the party leaders told a press conference here today.

The signature collecting campaign will be preceded by an all-Russia party meeting scheduled for a period from September 21-30 and is expected to last for three-to-four months.

The Communist Party will also work along parallel lines to promote the creation of a legislative framework for the elections to the representative bodies of power and a new president of Russia.

"In the obtaining situation only early elections of the president and the forming of the government of popular trust can create the necessary conditions for preventing a historic catastrophe threatening our people," the Presidium of the Communist Party's Central Executive Committee said in a statement.

It looks as though the communists have come with the initiative only to score some possible moral points but not to achieve specific results of any legal consequence.

The Communist Party leader, Gennadiy Zyuganov, said in responding to an ITAR-TASS question that the party had on mind not a referendum (a law on which has yet to be adopted by the State Duma) but a country-wide public opinion poll. But if and when the law is promulgated, the communists are ready to present the collected signatures in order to demand a referendum.

As concerns the further evolution of the present political situation in the country, Gennadiy Zyuganov said that much would depend on whether a single left-wing opposition took shape in Russia. If this happens, "we shall win any elections in the first round," the communist leader declared.

Gennadiy Zyuganov told the press conference that a question about a single candidate for the Russian presidency from the opposition had already been discussed by the leadership of the movement "Concord for the Sake of Russia" but no final decision has been reached, and the movement expects to return to the question soon.

Democrats To Decide on Nomination Mechanism

LD3108234794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2342 GMT 31 Aug 94

[Text] Boris Fedorov, leader of the December 12 Liberal Democratic Union group in the State Duma told Interfax that democratic forces had to call a national congress in October or November. He said that they would have to work out a mechanism for nominating a common candidate in the 1996 presidential elections and agree on ways to form a coalition government of they won the 1995 parliamentary elections.

Fedorov believed that Yegor Gaydar, leader of the Russia's Democratic Choice party who had called for nominating Boris Yeltsin by the democrats, was on a way imposing a specific candidate on the democratic forces without discussing the essence of the matter.

Fedorov said that the best way for the democrats to proceed with putting up a common candidate would be to poll the electorate in five to ten regions late in 1995 or early in 1996, or, in U.S. fashion, to hold primaries to find out the rating of several candidates. He emphasized that all candidates, including Yeltsin if he intended to run, would have to make their platforms public.

'Party of Human Security' Formed

LD3108171794 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1200 GMT 31 Aug 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] A new political party, the All-Russian Party of Human Security [Vse-Rossiyskaya Partiya Bezopasnosti Cheloveka], has registered with the Justice Ministry. The chairman of its organizing committee is Nikolay Rzhevskiy, a former aide to the famous lawyer Sergey Kovalev. He believes some of the parties has put forward a clear program for defending the rights of the individual, the state is not ensuring people's security, the law and order system has broken down, and crime rules Russia. Members include a lawyer, nuclear scientists, chemists,

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and ecologists, but the party is hoping to win most of its support from the military. Former KGB officers have already joined. By the end of the year the party aims to be among the five leading parties in Russia, and next year it aims to be the biggest, winning final victory in 1996.

Lapshin on Agrarian Party Policies, Aims

[KRESTYANSKAYA Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 27 Aug 94 p 2]

[Interview with Mikhail Lapshin, leader of the Agrarian Party of Russia, by G. Nikolaev; date, place not given: "Movement of Land"]

[Text] [Nikolaev] Mikhail Ivanovich, my first question is prompted by an event that took place in Moscow recently—the All-Russia Rural Rally, which made a great impression. Many people discovered to their surprise that the organized peasantry has become a mighty force capable, with its allies, of fulfilling responsible functions in managing the country and extricating it from the present impasse.

[Lapshin] We believe the rally was a success. It was the first event of its kind in Russia's contemporary history. Yes, the organized peasantry now has to be reckoned with. The basis of that strength, its bulwark, is the Agrarian Party. The only thing we can reproach ourselves with is that we were rather late in embarking on such resolute actions. Unfortunately, many people have gotten accustomed to the idea that the peasants are somewhere on the peripheries of political life. For some people, frankly, they are second-class people. Yet the peasantry accounts for one-third of the country's population. And this is the third that provides everyone with food and drink, that toils from dawn to dusk, and yet receives several times less in the way of material goods than everyone else.

[Nikolaev] The Agrarian Party has stated that it is a nationwide party. That its activities are in the interests of the whole of society.

[Lapshin] All regions of the country and all generations of Russians are represented in the APR [Agrarian Party of Russia]. We are the party of social accord for the sake of Russia. We seek the unity of progressive organizations and movements on the basis of a balance of their interests. We seek cooperation among various sociopolitical forces. And this is naturally linked to the party's peasant nature. After all, upholding the peasants' interests means seeking solutions to the key problems of public life. The modern agrarian sector can only develop on an industrial basis—which means that the interests of those who are employed at machine building plants, in the power industry, etc. are close to our hearts. We cannot get on with farming if the country is living in the atmosphere of a threat from outside—which means we are interested in maintaining the army's high combat readiness and resolving all its problems, including social problems. Agriculture cannot develop without the help of science—so we must take care of the scientists and ensure that the appropriate conditions are created for them. The countryside needs teachers and doctors—so we strive to ensure that the country has an advanced education and health care system. It is also in our interests that workers should live well, earn good money, and constantly buy our products. And what about transportation? The law enforcement organs?... We have an interest in everything!

[Nikolaev] It used to be customary to regard the working class as the leading force in society. Do you believe the situation has now changed?

[Lapshin] At one time we used to talk a lot about the high level of consciousness of the working class. In this sense peasants were regarded as somehow less valuable. Yet the peasant's life is not only hard, but also well organized. The mir [peasant community], the commune—all these were the peasants. And what about the modern-day cooperativized peasantry—the kolkhoz members? And the sovkhozes? This is large-scale production too. Kolkhozes and sovkhozes are scorned now, but look at the West, how do they operate there? I have visited dozens of countries. Everywhere there is the same trend in the agrarian sector—to develop large production units. Private farming in many ways belongs to the agriculture of yesterday, if not even further back. Production techniques and the market both demand. Unite, form cooperatives! And that is what people are doing all over the world. Yet here, people bow down before the West, and do not even lift their heads to see how things are done there. Things are certainly not done in the way we are told by "democrats" like Yu. Chernichenko. The people rightly say: If you tell a fool to bow down and pray to God, he'll smash his head open.

[Nikolaev] So you are gambling on large-scale production?

[Lapshin] Russia is a vast, boundless country with various geographical, climatic, natural, and demographic conditions. It is possible to develop all kinds and forms of production here. Its economy has traditionally been mixed. Rural and city dwellers' personal plots used to provide some 24 percent of agricultural output. Our party is in favor of diversity and equality of all forms of ownership. Large-scale production has been developed over the decades. There are 25,000 farms operating in the country. What is the point of destroying them—and down it make sense? First, set up private farms, but why destroy the big ones at the same time?

Our party defends the political interests of all farmers, whatever form of farming they use. The current economic policy has crushed everyone. Incidentally, in Poland, where a monetarist policy involving "shock therapy" was implemented, private farms were also crushed, yet they had long been predominant there. That is why I react strongly to all these city calls for the "liberation" of the kolkhoz member.

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Who needs liberating? People whose talents have flourished thanks to collective labor? At the All-Russia Rally, the names of people like Praskovya Malinina, Darya Garmash, Vasiliy Starodubtsev, Aleksandr Shumkov, Vasiliy Gorin, and Semen Pyatnitsa were uttered with great respect. The whole country has known those names. We hold Terentiy Semenovich Maltsev in particular honor. Sadly, he died just a few days before our talk. A legendary person, Russia's chief and most illustrious farmer. A peasant and an academician. His services to the countryside and to the country are immeasurable. The land of Russia is embellished by such names!

[Nikolaiev] Apparently the front-runners readily join the Agrarian Party?

[Lapshin] We accept into the party active people who wish to help agriculture, the country, and therefore themselves, not just in words but in deeds. They are, as a rule, specialists, ordinary kolkhoz members, members of joint-stock companies, and the rural intelligentsia. Private farmers also form a strong strand within the party. Peasants who object to seeing the powers that be ruining the countryside, the economy, and the state join the party. The number of applications from city dwellers is also increasing.

[Nikolaiev] How many are in the party? At the end of May you stated that you had 100,000 members. Recently a different figure was mentioned—200,000. Which is accurate?

[Lapshin] Both figures are accurate. In May there were 100,000 now, in August, there are 200,000. The party's ranks are swelling very rapidly. A broad organizational campaign has been launched throughout Russia. I think the figure will have changed by the next APR congress in November.

[Nikolaiev] In which regions of Russia do you have party organizations?

[Lapshin] In 64 out of the 89.

[Nikolaiev] How do they start? Do you send organizers from Moscow?

[Lapshin] Come off it! The initiative originates locally. All our regional organizations are very active. I have already visited many of them—they are led by real enthusiasts, battle-hardened people. I do not want to boast, but we really do have a strong nucleus of activists.

[Nikolaiev] The All-Russia Rally proclaimed the struggle for the country's emergence from the crisis to be the peasantry's most important task. How do you characterize the crisis?

[Lapshin] The reasons for the crisis are the general steep decline in production in the national economy and a mistaken agrarian policy. What are its faults? First, the continuing disparity between prices for agricultural and industrial output. Second, the reduction in state support for the agro-industrial complex. Then there is the imposition of unjustifiably high bank interest rates on credits, and the growth of defaults on payments. There are also the dire effects of food intervention from outside, squeezing output produced by Russians out of the market. As a result many agricultural enterprises have been brought to the brink of bankruptcy and are incapable of carrying out even simple reproduction, let alone any expanded reproduction. Wages go unpaid for months at a time. I was in the Altay recently, and on one farm I met people who had last received wages in... August last year!

[Nikolaiev] It is well known that you are one of the authors of the APR's economic program. What is its essence?

[Lapshin] Our program provides for a change in the course of reforms. The reforms should be more productive, should meet the interests of the majority of the people and enjoy their support. This is not the case at present. At the stage of emergence from the crisis it is impossible to avoid certain measures that by no means everyone will greet with enthusiasm: the introduction of a monopoly on foreign trade, a ban on exporting Russian capital, state orders in the agro-industrial complex and high-tech sectors of industry, the writing off of interest and payments on credits granted to the countryside, and a number of other measures. We should reorient ourselves away from freedom of economic activity for businessmen, toward freedom of productive activity for the actual commodity producers. Instead of pinning our hopes on assistance from foreign capital, we should place the emphasis on the people's own efforts and energy. The draft APR program stresses that we are in favor of a mixed economy and the free development and competition of all forms of ownership. We must put an end to market chaos and restore the manageability of the national economy.

[Nikolaiev] How, in your opinion, should the acute problem of the buying and selling of land be resolved?

[Lapshin] Our party is categorically opposed to the unrestrained, unrestricted buying and selling of land. We believe that the land should belong to those who cultivate it. Any movement or reallocation of land should only take place in the peasants' favor. Land should in no circumstances be taken out of agricultural use. It does not matter who is going to work the land: kolkhoz member, private farmer, or shareholder. We are in favor of peaceful competition between all forms of land tenure.

[Nikolaiev] And what is the attitude to that stance in the Duma?

[Lapshin] Sometimes fierce disputes flare up between us and those who insist on uncontrolled land use. That is absurd. No country in the world has a free, unrestricted market in land.

[Nikolaiev] The authors of certain articles in opposition newspapers call the present Russian regime a regime of occupation.

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[Lapshin:] In my view, that is a journalistic exaggeration. Indeed, it is fundamentally untrue, although our officials do travel across the ocean to report on how they are reforming the country (and their reports contain many overstatements, in accordance with tradition). Incidentally, occupying forces, as a rule, try at least to some extent to provide for the needs of the population of the country they have occupied. The authors you mention would be more accurate, I think, if they called the present authorities antipopular.

[NG:Lapshin] Judging by your remarks, you do not hold President Yeltsin in very high esteem.

[Lapshin:] As you must realize, I am not unique in that. The vast majority of Russians disagree with his policy. Yeltsin's rating, as you know, is not more than 20 percent today. You would have to be completely blind not to see where he is leading the state. It is more than four years since he took the helm in Russia. That is long enough to become convinced of his bankruptcy as a politician and statesman. This is particularly obvious to us peasants. He has not lifted a finger to save our sector. Two months ago he received the APK's leaders. We communicated our basic requests. Nothing has been done to this day! Incidentally, during the meeting we were able to see yet again that the president does not have accurate information on the state of affairs in the agro-industrial complex, that he is "at sea" where our problems are concerned.

[Nikonov:] But when he was elected to the USSR Supreme Soviet in 1989, the support in Moscow was all but universal. He had great expectations behind him and he boldly criticized the shortcomings of the system that existed and its leaders.

[Lapshin:] Of course he was unable to shake off the leadership habits that he had acquired as a party person. Obviously it is not a question of his lacking leadership skills. So what is the problem? The problem is that this man has undergone a profound psychological and moral transformation. He has begun to serve another area, repudiating his own convictions. To change yourself radically, to break with what you have sworn allegiance to—that is a colossal upheaval for an individual. The luminaries used to be converted to a different faith in their youth; in this case, the break is with the lifelong principles and values of a mature person.

Just tell me the name of anyone else who has changed yet been capable of working at a high state post and enjoying people's respect and confidence. Burbulis? Volkogonov? Kozhevnikov? Shapovalyants? Yakovlev? Kozyrev? Or maybe Gorbachev?

People trusted Yeltsin at first, he criticized the bureaucracy, the nomenklatura, and its privileges so sharply, he was in touch with people, he used to travel on public transportation, he declared that he used the local clinic. But later he said he had been mistaken, that the most important thing is to provide the conditions for the apparatus to operate—and so benefits for bureaucrats were revised and increased.

He advocated perfecting socialism. And then he flew to America to report that communism had ended. You understand, people will not forgive those who deceive them and insult them, who treat them like cattle or fools.

[Nikonov:] How are we to understand your slogan of the struggle for power?

[Lapshin:] Very simply. Coming to power on the basis of obtaining a majority in the elections. Along with our allies, of course. Having gained a majority, we will be able to adopt the laws the people need. We will form a government which will pursue a course of boosting the economy and increasing people's well-being. We will restore relations between all parts of the former Soviet Union. We will pursue an independent foreign policy that accords with Russia's interests.

[Nikonov:] What if the presidential team delays the elections indefinitely?

[Lapshin:] That will not be easy for it to do.

[Nikonov:] What about the mass media? After all, they mold public opinion, turning it against you and against all the opposition.

[Lapshin:] We are already able to some extent to curb the extreme manifestations of gross one-sidedness in the mass media, and if we come to power we will be able to impose the democratic principles that are recognized throughout the world in this sphere, too.

[Nikonov:] Your party intends to promote the further development of national culture. Do you identify any particular priorities here?

[Lapshin:] We value all the culture of Russia and the Russian people, in all its manifestations. We will look after the development of cultural institutions—theaters, museums, and libraries—and their workers, and those who create artistic assets. And create the conditions for giving the broad masses of the people access to culture. But doubtless nobody will be surprised if we begin by paying particular attention to those priceless hearths of culture that had their origins in the countryside—folk arts and crafts. This is a great asset of the whole nation. Today these hearths are not burning, but smoldering and fading. World-famous centers of lacquer miniatures like Palekh, Fedoskino, Kholuy, and Mstera are losing their place in cultural life and disintegrating. This is the fault of the cruel market and indifference on the part of the Russian Ministry of Culture.

[Nikonov:] What is your view of the chart showing politicians' popularity and influence that is published periodically in certain newspapers? You appear in it yourself.

[Lapshin:] It is a pointless exercise. If you are more or less popular, more or less "leading," ahead of or behind someone by a few dozen points—does it really matter? In

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early August two papers published lots of the Gaidar politicians whom they singled out from others—and they did not conclude at all. So these ratings are not worth much—they are just an excuse for workers and petty wingers. Even if they were accurate, they would be pointless. Or rather, the point is negative. The impression is created that a few hundred people play a decisive role in nationwide politics. Who rendered people? I expect the president chuckles when he reads it. Especially since they put him in first place in these ratings. In short, the country is plunging into the abyss, and meanwhile the analysts look intelligent and argue about who yesterday has moved from 68th place to 70th.

[Nikolaiev] State Duma speaker Ivan Petrovich Rybkin, a member of your faction, is at the top five of all the polls. Certain press organs are now complaining about him a lot, while others, on the contrary, are praising him more and more. Has your party's attitude to him changed?

[Lapshin] We realize that it is not easy to be the leader of a Duma where various political forces are represented. And we are always prepared to support his constructive sayings and actions which are based on a realistic assessment of the situation without going against the interests of healthy parliamentarianism in part.

[Nikolaiev] But you have evaded a direct answer. The reader will start speculating.

[Lapshin] There is no need to speculate. I cannot see enough "ears on top." Ivan Petrovich is the leader of the Duma, and we do not want to get in his way. The main thing is that it is not Ivan Rybkin or his considerable efforts that the State Duma has worked. Now is a time to speak more firmly about protecting the interests of the peasants.

[Nikolaiev] What is your attitude to Khasbulatov?

[Lapshin] I respect that courageous man. I think he has the potential to play a part in political life.

[Nikolaiev] In politics a dirty game?

[Lapshin] No. But it gets dirty where people touch it with dirty hands.

[Nikolaiev] What is the Agrarian Party's foreign policy concept?

[Lapshin] We are in favor of a principled, dynamic, active foreign policy based on unswerving protection of the interests of Russia and Russians. Naturally with full respect for the norms of international law and the legitimate interests of other states. With readiness for the broadest possible mutually beneficial cooperation. But let me stress again: Russia should cooperate with others as an autonomous great power, a European power with its own history, culture, and principles. No self-respecting state proposes to allow its own interests to be diluted in the common pot, or to replace its own national values, created over the centuries with so-called common human values—as if genuine national values were in conflict with common values! It does not propose that its own way of thinking be replaced with some kind of "new" thinking, or call on everyone to move into one common home. The idea was to drag the mentality of the communal apartment into international politics! Our so-called politicians with their wild fantasies allowed others to twist them round their little fingers. And now we are losing everything. I mean, a state has broken up, the former strong international positions have been squandered, and there is war on our borders. We have lost all our allies. The last one friend is little Cuba, so now our our political staff work are trying to work it out!

[Nikolaiev] In conclusion, allow me to offer a pleasant commission and, on behalf of your many friends and SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA's readers, congratulate you on your approaching 50th birthday. We sincerely wish you good health and great success in the coming political battles.

[Lapshin] Thank you. I am lucky. There is always an atmosphere of enthusiasm in my birthday, and many inspired young faces around. Because that day is the beginning of the new school year. Which is always, and for everyone, a year of great hopes and much work. I would like with all my heart to congratulate Russia's young people on this historic day!

Peasants Issue 'Dire Warning' to Government

AEM100122794 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 10 Aug 94 p 1

[Report by Marat Gizatov under the rubric "Tuesday to Tuesday: Views of Events": "Countryside Presents Ultimatum"]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Last week Government officials in a position could tell the position of the Russian peasantry and the attitude toward it of various political forces and the powers that be. I have in mind the rural assemblies which were held in Moscow last week and before that in many villages, towns, and oblasts. The final one, which was held 11 August, was attended by representatives of all the regions apart from Chechnya, which is stricken with discord—there were over 10,000 people there. SELSKAYA ZHIZN readers will already know what happened at this gathering, all Russian forum of peasants—the newspaper has spoken about it in detail. I would only add that Gennadiy Zyuganov, leader of the Russian Communists, was by no means the only person at the rostrum invited to present it to address the all-Russian assembly, although his speech was one of the sharpest. About "G peasants and representatives of all forms of ownership as it is now customary to phrase it, spoke of their tribulations and their pain. But it would be accurate to say that not a single person from the so-called democratic parties and movements came to support their demands. Neither President Yeltsin, nor Premier Chernomyrdin, nor his

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First Deputy Serkovets responded to the appeal that they should meet the peasants.

Mikhail Lapshin, chairman of the Agrarian Party of Russia, spoke about this with bitterness, pain, and indignation at the press conference convened by the Coordination Council for the Collective Actions of Workers in the Agro-Industrial Complex. It seems that the assembly's tough decisions to try to secure the resignation of a number of government members and early elections for the Russian president can be explained specifically by the attempt being made to ignore the broadest peasant movement and present it as intrigues by "political extremists." (In A. Zaverzukha's words) or a gathering of "sick leaders" (V. Chernomyrdin). "It is lamentable that the peasants have not seen the country's leaders. We did not expect this attitude," Mikhail Lapshin said at the press conference. He briefed those present on the situation in the Russian countryside and solutions to the agrarian crisis, which has affected both collective and particularly private, individual peasant farms.

The rural inhabitants are worried about the implementation of the budget this year. The credits that have been allocated to the countryside are not reaching the localities. At a meeting with agrarians 27 June, B.N. Yeltsin promised not to restrict agriculture saying "I guarantee equality." In fact, it has been receiving one-third to one-half of the funds other sectors have received, and is obtaining no more than one-fifth of the allocated funds. "My son operates a combine harvester, and he threshed 47 quintals of grain per hectare yesterday," Mikhail Lapshin said. "But he is working for free, as he has not received any pay since spring." And I thought of another press conference. Acting Finance Minister Dubinin was answering journalists' questions. Without batting an eyelid, he said that all sectors are being funded equally, and are obtaining 70 percent of the allocated sums. Was the acting minister dreaming? And second, it would be interesting to find out what percentage of the designated funds the Ministry of Finance is allocating for its own activity and to government work? And what percentage of the official rate of pay Mr. Dubinin receives personally?

Journalists asked about purchase prices. Will raising them, like the peasants are demanding, not lead to exorbitant prices in food stores? M. Lapshin thanked them for the question. And, in reply, said something that all agrarians know, but the city inhabitants, deceived by the mass media, have a poor picture of. High prices on the domestic market are not determined by the countryside at all. It is known from world practice that the proportion of rural labor in the final price of food products is approximately 50 percent. The other half is contributed by the purchasing agents, the processors, and the trade network. And this means that the bread that is baked from the grain from the previous harvest, bought at 70,000 rubles (R) per tonne, should not cost more than R150 per kg. In actual fact, in Moscow a 300-gram roll is now approaching R600.

And that is the price situation not just as regards bread. Milk, for example, at agrarians' estimates, should cost the customer no more than R400 per liter—that is the price at which workshops in the Moscow area are selling it to the city inhabitants in abundance. But the state procurement officials are giving farms only R130-165 per liter. And its cost in the stores has already jumped up to R640-700. This is Nielsen numbers of both rural and city dwellers.

So what about the authorities? From the lips of Chernomyrdin, who visited villages in the Orenburg area "with a view to familiarizing himself with them"—the state now owes this area R140 billion for output already sold—the authorities have threatened: if you raise prices, we will buy it from foreigners. Our shelves are creaking with applications from them. And this is not an empty threat. Moscow has practically stopped buying agricultural output from the oblast's farms, and has switched to importing food, arguing that the Moscow area peasants are not capable of providing for the city. The state of affairs is similar in a number of other major industrial centers. The "Privatizatsiya" reform has fallen apart. Border factories are reducing the production of Siberian meat, and trade in fat of chicken drumsticks from the United States. Having squeezed out their competitors and become the monopolists, the Americans have already announced that they are going to raise the price of their output. The Volgograd vegetable growers have grown 12,000 tonnes of superior onions. Our procurement officials have refused to buy them, and have bought them abroad at twice the price. Kuban peasants do not know what to do with their tomatoes at R200 per kg and their fruit at R800-1,200. Moscow City Hall, which owes the Krasnodar inhabitants R3 billion, prefers to buy foreign fruits at R4,000 per kg.

There are countless examples like this. It is not surprising that the peasants' patience has snapped. They have de facto presented the government with an ultimatum. If the situation does not change in the near future, the appropriate measures will be taken. This is a dire warning from the lips of those to whom, as Mikhail Lapshin said, 93 percent of the consumers belong, and through whose hands all communications pass.

Premier's Rebuke To Agrarians Overturned

LD0710143194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in Russian 11 Jul 94 p 2

[Report by Yuriy Nikolayenko: "Once Again Ears of Corn Are Crushed in Hands. Prime Minister in Orenburg (Video)"]

[Text] Orenburg—The people of Orenburg learned of Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin's recent trip from an "Orenburg" company television report presented by State Committee for Television and Radio Broadcasting Chairman Pavel Rikov himself. It may be that it is his prerogative alone to "serve" high-ranking persons in our area.

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Viktor Stepanovich and his entourage came down from the skies to the virgin lands of Adamovskiy Rayon, where an unprecedented harvest has been cultivated.

"Pasha, show the viewers the kind of grain that has been cultivated," he asked the television and radio chief in a familiar way.

The local sovkhozes were originally started from scratch 40 years ago in the wild steppes by Komsomol members who came to the uncultivated virgin lands. The popular film "Ivan Brovkin in the Virgin Lands" was subsequently filmed here, and actor Leonid Kharitonov tore along the steppe roads on a motorcycle.

Now visitors from the capital have again become a more frequent event again. They carefully crumple the succulent ears in their overworked state palms and praise the grain and the fertile soil. This is becoming a kind of yearly ritual. Last year when the fields were ripening Viktor Chernomyrdin and his deputy Aleksandr Zaveryukha also walked around Orenburg Oblast's fields where it seemed that they should have been taking part in a large economic conference held by the Russian Supreme Soviet. But since the president was patently not well-disposed toward the corps of deputies and its leadership at the time, the government "upped stocks" and toured the regions.

What has brought the same group of Muscovites to Orenburg Oblast? Was it the rough stance espoused by the peasants, who have lost faith in their distinguished fellow countrymen?

"People should not be holding rallies there in Moscow, they should be here in the fields," the head of government said angrily referring to the leaders of Russia's Agrarian Party who have held a large All-Russia Peasant Assembly in the capital.

"Who holds rallies during the harvest campaign?" the premier said in a rage, indicating by his whole demeanor that he is profoundly concerned for the future of the harvest.

These words would seem to be correct, but isn't it the government's doing that grain growers have been impoverished under his rule and farms have been literally ruined and scuppered, because it has effectively pursued an antipeasant course? It is no good Chernomyrdin's getting excited and accusing the assembly's organizers of allegedly having nothing to do with the land and living on the city. Isn't that like saying that someone who is reluctant to hear the truth is like a blind man, or someone unwilling to see ruin is acting deaf?

Our present rulers' actions are demonstrating something similar.

The guests did not fail to remind the local bosses that the first billions of rubles [R] in credit appropriations to help the peasants are already coming in. (This R30 billion represents no more than 10 percent of what is required). They say that there will also be top-ups, although they will admittedly be vastly overdue.

Agreement was reached here in the fields with Yu. Pyskov, director of the Rostselmash company, for 500 Don-1500 combines to be sent to the oblast by 10 September—with the cost spread over four or five years. Only no one dared to say that there will be no one to pay for the costly equipment. Definitive grain prices have not taken shape either. And a decision needs to be made.

However, politics often gains the upper hand, and these agrarians are coming under fire. During a Moscow press conference shortly afterward A. Zaveryukha did not hide his irritation with, as he put it, the "uncouth" demands for members of the government to resign.

Some of the current capitalist reformers seem to have abandoned self-criticism and are not prepared to analyze their own actions critically.

The trip to the fields of Orenburg, to all appearances, aimed to ease the tension created by the political "shock" therapists and to restore the peasants' trust. The premier went to neighboring Kazakhstan to the same end, to the Karachaganak gas complex, built during the Soviet era by representatives of the fraternal republics. Things are quiet there these days. There are over 200 developed wells but only seven are in operation. There is a shortage of specialists in Aktau. The Russians have gone back to Russia. The gas extraction industry—product of the bygone peoples' friendship—is dying.

It was planned to sign an agreement with the government of Kazakhstan. It has not yet proved possible to secure this, however. So the premier went back to Moscow.

Government Agrarian Policy Viewed

AU1108121194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 11 Aug 94 p 4

[Report by Valeriy Komissar: "We Will Actually Be Counting Bankrupts in Rural Areas During the Fall"]

[Text] For perhaps the first time in recent years we are not hearing fears at this time about hunger in the winter ahead. But on the other hand the grain harvest will definitely be poorer than the last one and production of other food products will also be reduced. There are, however, no signs of a food shortage and one is not expected in the near future. It is only the peculiarities of price which worries the purchaser at present and not the product's availability.

This situation is still fairly unusual to us. It forces us to look at a different way at the agricultural year's results, which have already taken shape, and at the general situation in the agrarian sector. There have been many changes here over the year, but the main ones still lie ahead. What is more, they concern politics rather than economics.

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Here is the latest (and unexpected) piece of news. There is dissent at the highest level in the agrarian lobby. Just recently Agrarian Party Leader Mikhail Lapshin and the government's agrarian Vice Premier Aleksandr Zaverryukha were firm believers in the same views and supported each other solidly. But now Zaverryukha is describing the All-Russia Rural Assembly held by the Agrarian Party as an unconstructive action, while Lapshin is accusing Zaverryukha of being out of touch with the voters and the party, and of being unable to manage the agricultural economy. This is not a question of personal ambitions but of much more significant processes which have emerged in agrarian policy with the onset of fall.

To put it more precisely: A gross and visible lack of any state agrarian policy whatsoever was noted, along with an irreversibility of its decreases. Until recently the rural areas were under the full control and protection—albeit exploitative protection—of the state, which is the main client placing orders for and purchasing agricultural produce. Today we have a market, however poor it is, state orders have been sharply curtailed, the peasants have gotten a choice of channels through which to sell their produce, and the state now has a choice of suppliers. While earlier the farm managers and agrarian officials' interests coincided, they are now diverging more and more.

What arguments are being adduced by the Agrarian Party leaders? They say that the government has led the people to a position where they have to purchase imported butter, sausage, poultry, and other produce, while homegrown produce cannot find a market. Instead of supporting its own peasants, the state is paying foreign ones. In this end, they say, an anti-people policy.

Such arguments are now less and less capable of eliciting sympathy and are often the butts of comic comment. In spite of all our patriotism we nevertheless want to purchase and eat that which is cheaper, tastier, and more attractive. Alas, the Russian agricultural producer is finding it increasingly difficult to compete with imports according to these simple but indispensable criteria.

Forcing the state's purchase prices up a little higher, which until recently government agrarian officials practiced on an amicable basis with Agrarian Party members, is becoming less and less relevant. This will not solve all the rural areas' problems, there will not be enough hidden subsidies for everybody, and it will not ensure demand for the produce. However, the Agrarian Party and the Agrarian Union continue to fight for this. There is every sign that the government's agrarian departments are changing their stance.

The first sign was a recent statement by Zaverryukha himself, saying that, to all appearances, almost one-fourth of agricultural enterprises will have to go bankrupt by year's end. It is clear that this is not a statement of fact but an intention, since it is very easy to make the majority of agricultural enterprises bankrupt if credits to them are not renewed. But then, the government's intention not to support everybody as it did before and to not let some people off has seriously bothered Agrarian Party members and, evidently, began the discord in the agrarian lobby.

It is proposed that some agricultural enterprises will be declared bankrupt and their lands and funds will change ownership. There is in essence nothing revolutionary in this. After all, it is not so simple to find new owners for unprofitable farms (unless, of course, one change their designation—for example, one set up golf courses or pensions, with fees payable in foreign currency). Such farms are themselves looking for new owners and are offering themselves to various companies. What is more, we are talking not only about collective farms but also about private farmers. If things continue as they are today, very many collective and private farms will actually go bankrupt in the fall. The sale of the harvest will in no way cover what they owe in credits.

It is another matter that the government is making increasingly clear its intention to drastically change the structure of agricultural production and bring it in line with the demand for and competitiveness of homegrown produce. In this regard it is impossible to manage without elaborating a clearly defined state agrarian policy. In this situation it is worth listening more carefully to the Agrarian Party's arguments. After all, the defense of the Russian agricultural producer is not a problem which our Agrarian Party members have thought up. To one degree or another it is characteristic of diverse countries. And it is resolved in diverse ways. It is possible to act in accordance with the principle that what is cheaper today is better, and, given the developed nature of the West's agricultural sector, to destroy our own agricultural production. But it is possible to change the agricultural sector's structure with an eye to the future. To protect yourself against future food dependency, find the funds to develop your own processing industry and cooperation between private farmers and set up a civilized system for selling produce. This is expensive but no more so than the future losses, which will be not just economic but also social.

At present intensive work to produce an agrarian policy—which is long overdue—is in progress in the government. Who should be supported and how, what guarantees should be provided for investment in the rural areas, and what should be the structure of Russia's agricultural production? These are questions which will have to be answered in the near future. It is clear that, come what may, quite a few people will be declared bankrupt this fall not only in the rural economy but also in agrarian policy.

Scientist Mirzayanov Allowed To Emigrate

LD3010092094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in Russian 1 Sep 94 p 1

[Report by Valeriy Yakov from the "From Our Correspondents and News Agencies" roundup: "Scientist Vil Mirzayanov Finally Granted Permission to Emigrate"]

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[Text] IZVESTIYA has often reported on the quarks in the life of chemist V. Mirzayanov, famous for allegedly disclosing the motherland's secrets in a newspaper article on the pages of MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI. Having proved his innocence in a lawsuit, the chemist was punished by the Moscow Visas and Registration Department, which refused Mr. Mirzayanov a visa on the grounds that he is indeed in possession of state secrets. A Russian Government interdepartmental commission overruled the Visas and Registration Department decision, thereby confirming that the aforementioned scientist is not the bearer of secrets and that state security will not be undermined by his emigration abroad. The decision is final and is not subject to appeal.

Economic Issues

Shokhin on Need To Adjust Economic Policy

LD1108072494 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1400 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] Russian Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandr Shokhin believes it is necessary to make certain adjustments to the economic policy of the Russian Government. According to him, in conditions where the situation in the economy has become more stable, the Cabinet should elaborate something like a stabilization program based on the introduction of new pure market mechanisms and a structural and investment policy to replace centralized Gosplan [State Planning Committee] ones. In an interview with INTERFAX the deputy prime minister said, in particular, that it is a question of combining the efforts of Russian private investors with small targeted infusions into the economy by the government. Aleksandr Shokhin believes that at the beginning of the year there was success in implementing such a scheme. However, the end of 1994 and the beginning of 1995 should be marked by its emergence.

Shokhin Urges Media Accuracy on Debt Policy

MM1108134594 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 11 Aug 94 p 2

[Report by Yuriy Nikolayev: "Aleksandr Shokhin: Oleg Davydov Could Liven Up the Work of the Debt Commission With His Original Statements"]

[Text] And so, it seems that clarity has been brought into the question of whether the recent statement made by Foreign Economic Relations Minister Oleg Davydov on Russia's external debt was official. Answering a question put to him by our ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI correspondent about who in our government is nevertheless "in charge of" the problems of the external debt, Vice Premier Aleksandr Shokhin said that it is his prerogative, since he heads the government commission for the state external debt and Russia's financial assets. As for Minister Oleg Davydov, at the moment he has not been officially ratified as a member of this commission. Aleksandr Shokhin noted that he would be happy to see him on the commission, partly because he makes original statements which could liven up the commission's work.

The vice premier confirmed that the Russian Government has not submitted and does not intend to submit to the West the question of writing off the external debt, and talks with the Paris Club may begin in the very near future. There are also other options which differ from previous plans. But, the vice premier noted, they will only be brought up some time later. Following thorough work. He asked the press to carefully get to grips with the essence of the new Russian approach to servicing our debt, so that Western creditors are not frightened by inaccurate information, since there are not that many journalists who are so well-acquainted with this sphere. And not even all ministers are specialists in this sphere, the vice premier added.

Well, it happens.

Energy Complex Accounts for Third of All Debt

LD1108171694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1333 GMT 11 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Pavel Kuznetsov and Gennadiy Verbitov]

[Excerpt] Moscow, 11 August—Enterprises of the fuel and energy complex account for one-third (32 percent) of the total amount of unpaid debts in Russia, which, according to Oleg Soskovets, the first vice-premier, threatens a serious economic and social destabilization. He spoke today at a routine sitting of the operational commission of the Russian Federation government for improving the system of payments and financial settlements. While producing goods of high liquidity and export value, enterprises which extract and process oil are both debtors and unpaid creditors, Soskovets said.

[Passage omitted] At today's sitting of the commission, Oleg Soskovets asked a number of interested ministries and departments to examine and analyze the pricing system in the fuel and energy complex because prices of fuel and electric power form the basis for other branches of industry. A working commission set up with this purpose is to submit its proposals by 2 September, which will be considered at the next sitting of the Russian Federation Government commission for improving the system of payments and settlements.

Central Bank Strengthens Dollar Against Ruble

MM1108161794 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 1 Sep 94 p 1

[Report by Ivan Zhagel: "Central Bank Has Released Dollar by 44 Rubles"]

[Text] On the last day of summer trading at the Moscow interbank currency exchange changed the currency

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market situation quite drastically—the dollar exchange rate jumped 44 units in one go and was 2,197 rubles [R] per U.S. dollar.

Of course one can say that the currency market is very unstable right now and that in September the almost forgotten exchange rate pandemonium will continue. One can cite reasons for this—the additional expenditure in the economy usual in late summer and early fall in connection with the purchase of the harvest and the shipment of goods to the Arctic regions. At any rate it is a fact that recently the government was, first, issued with additional credit resources, and the government immediately issued them to industrial and agricultural enterprises.

But one cannot help forming the impression that the Central Bank has also played a part in the exchange rate's present unpredictability. And it has done this deliberately in an attempt if not to punish then at least to teach a good lesson to currency speculators. You only have to recall that on 23 August, when emboldened by the rapid rise in the dollar exchange rate, everyone put their money on the exchange and the volume of trading exceeded $300 million for the first time. The Central Bank did not support the price and, having lost gigantic sums, not only halted the rise in the dollar exchange rate but also reduced it. When everyone became used to the new exchange rate the Central Bank "released" it by R44 at one go, switching it to a level at which it was possible to pursue its policy without substantial expenditure.

Incidentally, it should be noted that as a result of all these actions by the Central Bank the average monthly increase in the dollar exchange rate will greatly exceed the usual values recently. On the other hand many banks which tried to play on the instability of the currency market and to some extent increased this instability will now think twice before rushing into this sphere.

Crackdown on Unlicensed Banking Imminent

MK1008134994 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 10 Aug 94 p 2

[Report by Ivan Zhagel: "The Central Bank Intends To Step Up the Struggle Against Illegally Operating Companies"]

[Text] The list which the Central Bank of Russia recently published of 25 companies which do not have banking licenses but engage in specific banking operations will very soon be added to. As Aleksandr Khandruyev, deputy chairman of the Central Bank, declared, approximately 20 more such firms will be named among the violators.

It is precisely the scale of illegal banking operations, which are really snowballing, that is obliging the Central Bank to step up the struggle against this evil, although such companies are not formally under its control, since they were registered with entirely different organs. Nevertheless, they not only harm the idea of market transformations and not only undermine confidence in normally operating banks but also do colossal harm to the financial well-being of millions of R [ruble] citizens, and so, A. Khandruyev believes, the Central Bank cannot stand to one side.

Incidentally, this is probably the first time the Central Bank's deputy chairman has given any specific data on the operations of such companies. Thus, as of 1 August, the volume of ordinary citizens' funds attracted by the "Russkiy Dom Selenga" joint-stock company totaled 1.4 trillion rubles! A simply colossal sum. Mindful of the fact that in the past month not only "Selenga" but also the MMM joint-stock company, the "Tibet" concern, and a number of other companies have stopped payments to their clients, it is possible to admit, without greatly stretching a point, that the financial interests of the overwhelming majority of Russian families have suffered in a short space of time.

At the same time Khandruyev complained of the imperfect nature of existing legislation, which does not permit any specific sanctions to be applied to violator-companies. Moreover, by utilizing the deficiencies of the normative base, these violators are switching from defense to attack and stirring up their clients against state organs. Thus, the deputy chairman of the Central Bank showed me a letter signed by 13,000 "Selenga" investors, in which they ask for the issuing of a banking license to the joint-stock company to be speeded up. This is by no means the only letter.

The Central Bank believes, in principle, that there are no grounds for refusing such licenses, provided the formalities are observed. This should not, however, create euphoria among those who have suffered. For example, "Selenga" and "Tibet" might organize banks, but they will be completely autonomous legal persons. They must also agree to reregister previously concluded contracts in the form of deposits.

So the problems of a bank's registration and the problems of liability in accordance with previously adopted obligations to clients should not be interlinked. Of course, it benefits violator-companies to lump everything together here, but it is in the interests of ordinary citizens not to let themselves be deceived by such ruses.

Vouchers May Be Used To Purchase Shares

LD1108202794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1641 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] Russian citizens who did not use their privatization vouchers by July 1 will have an opportunity to exchange them for shares of privatized enterprises from September 1 to December 1, 1994, a source in Russia's State Property Committee told the Financial Information Agency.

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In accordance with the presidential decree of July 20 on additional measures to protect the citizens' interests during the transitional period from voucher-based to cash privatization, vouchers will be accepted as a payment unit at their par value of 10,000 rubles. Vouchers can be used in any part of Russia by agreement between the local authorities and the Russian government, while the whole operation will be financed from local budgets.

The State Property Committee informed the Financial Information Agency that by August 31 no applications for vouchers had arrived at the State Property Committee from local authorities.

In the estimate of the Committee's specialists, out of the 148 million vouchers issued in Russia 147 million have been invested, including the vouchers sold at voucher-based auctions which ended as of July 31. So, by September 1 not more than 1 million vouchers will remain unused.

On August 30 the voucher sold at 17,270 rubles at the Central Russian Universal Exchange.

Zaveryukha Forecasts Bumper Harvest

PM1109133194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 11 Aug 94 p 2

[Report by Yelena Yakovleva: "Russia Must Be Self-Sufficient in Grain, Aleksandr Zaveryukha Promises"]

[Text] Government Vice Premier Aleksandr Zaveryukha has forecast a higher grain harvest in Russia—100 million tonnes. This is more than last year (99 million tonnes). If one consider the fact that the harvest in Russia determines prices on the world grain market, such forecasts always shake the world slightly.

It was a tour of Orenburg Oblast, in the virgin lands, that gave A. Zaveryukha grounds for new forecasts. "The wheat is the same height as myself—1 meter 78 cm. Against the usual virgin-land yield of seven or eight quintals, this year we will gather an average of 30-40 quintals."

The new forecasts and the old stocks enable the vice premier to say that we "must be self-sufficient in grain."

The secret of grain self-sufficiency, however, is concealed not in the overall harvest figure but in the proportion of food grain that might be lacking. As yet nobody is naming this figure officially. "Sov-Ekon" experts have made the assumption that, given Russia's stable requirement for 21 million tonnes of food grain, no more than 17 million tonnes will be produced this year.

But the vice premier is inclined to speak of Russian grain exports, not imports. Considerable stocks of rye and barley—approximately 14 million tonnes—have built up in Russia over the past three years. Their possible purchasers mainly include the countries of the former USSR: Ukraine, which has gathered in a poor harvest, and countries in the Caucasus and Central Asia.

Information has appeared that at Zaveryukha's recent meeting with U.S. Ambassador T. Pickering the latter tried to get the Russian vice premier to recognize the need for U.S. grain purchases. Zaveryukha replied that he intended to change the existing U.S. idea of Russia as an underdeveloped country endlessly in need of humanitarian assistance. This is why U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy is coming to Russia (6-8 September) and he will probably be shown the celebrated virgin-land wheat that is as tall as the vice premier.

Despite the optimistic forecasts, only approximately 1 million tonnes of grain have been purchased for the federal fund and the regional funds.

Aleksandr Zaveryukha called this haggardness perfectly normal. The grain exists and is lying in kolkhoz warehouses and being stored in elevators. Some farms are concluding contracts with private bakeries. Why should it all be poured at once into the "granaries of the motherland" or of "Roskhlebprodukt"? If a need for grain arises in Krasnoyarsk, Krasnodar will dispatch it, the vice premier explained.

In actual fact, the delay over purchases deepens price rivalry between the grain producers and the processors ("Roskhlebprodukt" and the state that lies behind it).

But the ordinary person is, nonetheless, concerned about the end result: The price of bread in the store.

According to forecasts, bread made with grain of the future harvest could cost 1,000-1,200 rubles [R]. "Roskhlebprodukt" spokesmen say that they will not allow the price of 1 kg of bread to exceed R1,000 if the grain producers do not raise prices. But the grain producers say that bread must cost R500-600 in the store on condition that the processors and tradesmen hold back their increases somewhat. But, as a result, the price of bread, just as last year, will most likely depend on subsidies from local budgets.

Discusses Bread Prices

LD1110020194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1643 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] The price of bread in Russia made from this year's grain should not on average exceed 500 or 600 rubles per kilogram, which is no more than three times the price at which the state buys grain from farmers, Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandr Zaverukha said.

Zaverukha, currently visiting Russia's Murmansk Region, told Interfax on Wednesday that any other information attributed to him was either groundless or deliberately "provocative." He said that this year the government had set no fixed nationwide purchasing prices for grain and had not even suggested any.

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Earlier grain producers had agreed at regional meetings not to charge for state more than [illegible] rubles per kilogram on average, the deputy premier said.

The price of a kilogram of bread, however, "may soar all the [illegible] rubles or more, but only due to additions made by transport, processing and trading firms, who 'know no limits,' Gerashchenko said. He said the government should resort to tough and uncompromising measures against those 'who stuff their pockets with money by boosting bread prices' ... to let the Russian peasants, who have nothing to do with the 'mess with the prices,' Gerashchenko said.

Russia will this year produce [illegible] million tonnes of grain, depending on state allocations and weather conditions enough to meet the country's needs, he said.

Current Status of Stock Market Examined

[illegible] in Russian 30 Aug 94 p 1

[Report by Oleg Sivkov]: "Traders Will Have To Know Their Millions of Investors by Name"]

[Text] Legislative issues relating to the functioning of the share market [illegible] was said by Goskomimushchestva [State Committee for the Management of State Property] that a government decree on abolishing bearer securities and introducing registered stock in their place is under preparation. However, Goskomimushchestva Deputy Chairman Dmitriy Vasilyev maintains that it is not a matter of closing down those existing bearer securities. Most probably, over a certain transition period, there will be specified intervals, or otherwise, to convert such securities into registered stock, and to compile a register of shareholders.

Designing a truly modern niche on the market somewhere between [illegible] percent of this day bearer stock without virtually any [illegible] which is easily accessible to the ordinary investor. The sale and purchase can be conducted without formalities, and without registering the change of owner.

However, on top of this there are municipal bonds and shares from privatized enterprises. But as yet the small investor has the opportunity to acquire both types only in very small quantities.

Clearly, there are insignificantly few municipal bonds on the market. They were issued on just a few regions of Russia. And although the experiment was successful and there nothing to threaten is plentiful, the immediate issue of these securities is very problematic. Owing to the fact that to this day the definitive dividing up of municipal and federal property has yet to be effected, it is not clear which property will serve as a guarantee of the issuance of municipal bonds. Furthermore, it is not clear which branch of power—the legislative or the executive—is empowered to adopt a decision on emission.

The situation concerning shares in privatized companies is even more complex. The entire normative base regulating this market is most readily aimed at protecting the raising funds from the investor rather than at supporting investments. It provides an opportunity to complicate markedly the reregistration of ownership rights upon purchasing registered stock.

Frankly speaking, what the managers of most former state enterprises fear more than death itself is what will happen once they have been "purchased," especially by those terrible "physical persons." Therefore, they are doing everything possible (and, in general, a mass of opportunities is presenting itself) so as not to alter the original body of shareholders. The fact that the securities market does not have a developed infrastructure right now is playing into their hands. In order to purchase shares in a privatized enterprise, a client will has to deal with the enterprise in question.

But this is not all. The current state of the Russian economy and the tax policy being pursued render virtually impossible the payment of perceptible dividends to the shareholders of such enterprises over the next few years.

But the most important point is this. The market for shares in privatized enterprises is only just staring afloat. Supply here is still very small. Repeated share emissions have been implemented by individual enterprises. And everything which is most attractive here is instantly snatched by the major investor, including the foreign investor. This month alone, the latter has thrown somewhere in the region of $400 million onto the market. And so given this disposition of forces, the state is saving. We will put an end to bearer securities.

When defending its viewpoint, the state cites the following arguments. The circulation of bearer securities facilitates the criminalization of the market. First, they are easily forged (or else made to look like a forged security, thereby depriving its owner of all shareholder rights). Second, it is not difficult to exclude deals involving such shares from financial accounts (as they are not registered anywhere) and thus evade taxation.

Opponents of the authorities on this instance, it is the exchange structures actively working with bearer securities, who take this view) agree that the securities in question fall beyond the bounds of any kind of state regulation. However, they insist that until a comprehensive law on the stock market is adopted they should be left alone. According to Maxim Zimenkov, deputy chief of the Russian Commodity and Raw Materials Exchange, bearer securities occupy their own niche. They are accessible, and the population understands them. But "sudden movements" by government organs and efforts to impose order retrospectively "may have unpredictable consequences." Panic will swell and the markets will "go down the drain once and for all."

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in this debate, the government can only have one proper argument. To guarantee the small saver real access to the securities market. And, above all, to shares on privatized enterprises.

As yet, the majority of brokers' offices actively working with these shares do not especially welcome the small saver. They do not have time to fulfill profitable large orders as it is. Only the removal of all restrictions from new emissions in parallel with the expansion of the stock market infrastructure (an increase in the number of brokers' offices and share stores, and the equipping of them with modern technology) will lead to a change in the position of the small investor. Clearly, this is a question which will take several months to resolve.

Military, Nuclear & Space Issues

Demonstrators Leave for Joint-U.S. Exercise Site

LD1020171194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1644 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Text] A group of 40 including the leader of the Working Russia movement and the Russian Communist Party, Viktor Anpilov, on Wednesday left for Orenburg Region to hold a protest demonstration against Russian-U.S. command post exercises to take place at the region's Totsk tracking ground.

Anpilov, in an interview with Interfax, said the number one task of the actions, called "For Russian Rebirth," was to thwart the exercises, to be held between September 2 and 10, the number two task being "to expose them as a disgusting provocation against the Russian people."

The group, led by 64-year-old Grigory Grigoriev, a retired army major who heads a local Communist Party branch, consists of 27 men and 14 women aged between 18 and 72. Among them are members of the Russian National Unity movement, which is led by Aleksandr Barkashov, known for his active part in last October's bandfight revolt in Moscow. Anpilov himself will be a rank-and-file participant in the demonstration, he said.

Communist Party activists told Interfax that 3.5 million rubles and 514 had been raised for the action.

About 200 people held a farewell rally at Moscow's Yaroslavl Station, carrying red banners and slogans reading, "U.S. is an evil empire," "Stop the American jackboot" and "U.S. hands off Russia!" They also chanted insults to President Boris Yeltsin. The police did not interfere.

OMON Forces To Keep Order

LD1020174894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1742 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Text] Fifteen representatives of so-called communist-patriotic organizations left Orenburg on the 15th on Wednesday for the Totsk military site. They intend to picket the site where U.S.-Russian joint peacekeeping exercises are due to start on Friday.

The local office of the Federal Counterintelligence Service (FCS) said that demonstrators were on their way from 10 Russian towns and cities.

A division of internal troops and OMON [special purpose militia detachment] forces are heading to the area to maintain order during the exercises. FCS representatives said that the demonstrators would not be able to get onto the Totsk site.

Totsk Military Site 'Source of Ecological Danger'

LD1220172194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1742 GMT 22 Sep 94

[Text] The Totsk military complex located 200 kilometers from Orenburg (the administrative center of the largest region in the South Urals) is a source of ecological danger because of earlier tests of nuclear and chemical weapons, the administration of the Orenburg Region told Interfax with reference to Defense Ministry archives. Fragments of radioactive materials may still be present on the testing ground.

In 1954, troop exercises with the use of nuclear weapons were held on the Totsk testing ground under Marshal Zhukov's command. During the exercises, a 20-kiloton bomb was exploded on the ground, which is comparable with the nuclear explosions in Japan in 1945. The air explosion occurred at an altitude of 300 meters—twice as high as the explosions in Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

The local sanitary services report that from 1950 to 1990 the incidence of oncological diseases in the region increased 2.5-4 times and the death rate caused by malignant tumors increased 5 times from 1976 to 1990. The number of children with congenital disorders increased five times from 1960 to 1992.

In addition to this, Soviet-German air and ground tests of chemical weapons were held on this testing ground from 1926 to 1933. Local environmental protection organizations report that the ground and water in this region still contain large amounts of chemicals and components of weapons of mass destruction.

Tula Rifle Plant Halts Production for 1 Month

LD0209090194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0127 GMT 2 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Rudenko]

[Text] Tula, 1 Sep (ITAR-TASS)—For the first time in its 300-year history the Tula rifle plant is at a standstill. Workers and office staff were sent on compulsory leave today until 1 October. They will receive the minimum monthly wages.

Military work has been reduced by 97 percent during the three years of conversion. But even after Kalashnikov

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assault rifles were taken out of production in January 1994. the plant managed to keep itself afloat by expanding its output of hunting rifles. However, chronic nonpayments were the "last straw." With only six billion rubles in its account the enterprise was able to pay June wages to no more than 40 percent of its workers. There was nothing with which to pay the July or August wages. The state alone owes the plant more than 15 billion rubles for weapons ordered by the state. The Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Internal Affairs delivered another kick in the teeth by securing a large increase in the cost of licenses for the production, sale, and purchase of weapons. The new license fees have made Tula rifles too expensive for most Russian citizens.

Veteran employees of the enterprise recently wrote to the president, the prime minister, and the speakers of the two chambers of parliament about all this. But there are no signs of progress. Meanwhile, the rifle makers are already suggesting that the time has come to take up arms. Not that they want to shoot anyone with them. The idea is to sell them under the counter in order to earn money for survival...[TASS ellipses]

Company Seeks To Recycle Chemical Weapons Poisons

MM0109093794 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 27 Aug 94 p 3

[Interview with Boris Belousov, president of the Metallichem Defense Industry Corporation Joint-Stock Company, by Aleksandr Yegorov; date, place not given: "Munitions Manufacturers Propose Partnership"—from the RUSSKOYE OBOZRENIYE "Newspaper Within a Newspaper"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Yegorov] Boris Mikhaylovich, talking about the most important areas of the corporation's activity, what should we dwell on first?

[Belousov] First, I would say that we are continuing to cooperate with the Defense Ministry in shaping long-term and annual sectoral research and development plans. The corporation is cooperating equally closely with the Russian Federation State Committee for the Defense Sectors of Industry. We have also concluded an agreement with them on the joint implementation of conversion programs, programs for recycling munitions, etc.

Second, under the treaty on scientific and technical cooperation with the Russian presidential Committee for Convention Problems of Chemical and Biological Weapons we are continuing for the third year now to implement the program for eliminating chemical agents stored on Russian territory.

Information

[Yegorov] Russia has stockpiled around 40,000 tonnes of chemical agents. They are to be destroyed under the international accords. Six months ago the cost of the destruction program stood at around 2.5 trillion rubles or $500 million.

[Belousov] Foreign partners have been enlisted in this work, and it is planned to expand this cooperation with the help of an international consortium which includes German companies. Last year and this year the German federal budget allocated 5 million marks apiece for the development and manufacture of a so-called pilot, i.e. experimental, installation to destroy chemical toxins. There is every reason to think that next year the German side's share will increase considerably.

[Yegorov] Your corporation took part in organizing a tender for technologies to destroy chemical agents. What were the results?

[Belousov] Despite a host of foreign projects that envisaged direct combustion, we chose Russian technology that will make it possible not just to destroy but actually to recycle some elements. Let us start with lewisite. We want to supply the electronics industry with a product obtained from recycling it—pure arsenic—for the production of semiconductors. Given that the purification of natural arsenic is a very costly business, we are counting on interest from the electronics sector.

[Yegorov] How is it proposed to destroy the toxins? Will special centers be created like those that have already been set up to recycle conventional munitions?

[Belousov] They will probably be destroyed directly in the regions where they are being stored. There is lewisite in the city of Kamburka on the Kama, so that is where it should be destroyed. There are no plans to transport the toxins because the public demands maximum security. There is no need to repeat the situation that developed at one time around the Chapayevsk plant which was engaged in the destruction of chemical munitions.

The third-most-important area of our activity can be said to be providing the corporation's enterprises with material and technical resources and spare parts. [passage omitted]

Fire Reported at Chelyabinsk Nuclear Plant

AU1108153094 Paris AFP in English 1434 GMT 31 Aug 94

[Text] Moscow, Aug 31 (AFP)—A small fire broke out Wednesday [31 August] at a Russian nuclear waste reprocessing plant at a secret site in the Urals but authorities said it was quickly brought under control and created no danger to the public.

Georgy Kasatov, spokesman for the ministry of atomic energy, told AFP that the fire at the Mayak plant in the closed city of Ozersk occurred when a container of nuclear waste was being opened for reprocessing.

He described the fire as a "technical mishap" and said no one was injured and no damage to the surrounding environment was caused.

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Ozersk—until recently known as Chelyabinsk-65—was once the main center in Russia for production of weapons-grade plutonium, but is now reprocessing nuclear waste and produces radioactive isotopes for sale to researchers.

The Mayak plant, located in the city, has formed a joint-venture with the British firm Amersham Ltd.

'No Threat' to Population

LD3109064994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0739 GMT 1 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yevgeniy Tkachenko]

[Text] Chelyabinsk September 1 TASS—A radioactive discharge which took place at the "Mayak" chemical company in the Chelyabinsk region on August 31 at 20:40 local time, is of no threat to population and the environment, says a press release circulated by the company management this morning.

"Part of a protective case burnt through where the factory for processing irradiated fuel of the nuclear power plants began disassembling a fuel holder," the document says. "Equipment was switched off from electricity. Fire was put out, and the personnel did not absorb any radiation.

"The discharge of radioactive products into the atmosphere near the gas-purification system totalled 4.16 percent from the permissible discharge of the enterprise. A commission was set up to investigate reasons for the incident."

Yevgeniy Ryabkov, head of the Mayak public relations group, told ITAR-TASS that the company's outside dosimetry service examined in detail the industrial grounds of the enterprise and the adjacent territory. There were no changes in radiation parameters. The spot at which the incident took place was shut down. Other enterprises of the Mayak company are working as usual.

Spokesman Rejects Plutonium Theft Claims

MM0109085794 Moscow NOVAYA YEZHEDNEVNAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Aug 94 pp 1, 2

[Interview with Georgiy Kasatov, chief of the Russian Federation Ministry of Atomic Energy Information Administration, by correspondent Valeriy Komdrashov under the rubric "Radiophobia"; place, date not given: "300 Grams of Plutonium Would Be Enough To Contaminate Half Germany. But Russia Has Nothing To Do With This. Ministry of Atomic Energy Asserts"—first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] The affair of the so-called Russian plutonium-239 found at Munich airport in the possession of a three-man international team comprising a Colombian, a Spaniard, and a Frenchman is continuing to disturb public opinion. But now that passions in this connection have nevertheless abated slightly and the topic itself has lost its touch of sensationalism, thoughts such as "Is there really anything to this story?" are coming to mind. What was behind the ill-fated 300 grams of radioactive material that arrived in Germany aboard a Lufthansa flight? NOVAYA YEZHEDNEVNAYA GAZETA correspondent Valeriy Komdrashov discusses this with Georgiy Kasatov, chief of the Russian Federation Ministry of Atomic Energy Information Administration.

[Komdrashov] Georgiy Alekseyevich, the German side claimed that Russian nuclear enterprises are engaging in "illicit" deals in radioactive materials because of the disintegration of the sector and the lack of resources in the hope of thereby rectifying their material position.

[Kasatov] We should clearly start with the fact that enterprises and associations in the Russian nuclear sector do not sell raw materials independently. This trade is handled by the special "Tekhsnabeksport" firm, which carries out all commercial deals involving uranium, plutonium, and other materials used in nuclear technologies. So we have no questions here. As for the situation with regard to safeguarding, there is a basic need to make a distinction between two things here. On the one hand you can speak of substances that can be used in warhead manufacture, for instance, uranium-235, uranium-233, and plutonium-239. On the other hand there are other nuclear materials that have no application in military industry and are used only as industrial materials. For instance, uranium-238, hundreds of tonnes of which are kept at storage depots and which we are prepared to sell to anyone. Uranium is the heaviest element of all and it can be used as ballast or, if you like, as a weight when you are making pickled cabbage. But when they hear the word "uranium" or "plutonium" people think only of nuclear weapons. The other day the MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] called us and reported that around 9 kg of uranium-238 had been stolen from a depot at Arzamas-16. Whether or not it has been stolen has yet to be established, but even if you assume that the theft took place, what could be done with it? Who would buy it? It would only be bought out of ignorance.

[Komdrashov] Incidentally, what is the price of this kind of uranium on the world market?

[Kasatov] Around $10 per pound. But all you can get for it nowadays is a spell in jail. So the theft is pointless.

[Komdrashov] Let's return to the Munich affair. Why did the German side immediately state with such conviction that the plutonium detained in Germany was of Russian origin?

[Kasatov] If you analyze the situation carefully, you will find a whole series of events preceding this incident. First reports appeared in the world press to the effect that so-called red mercury was leaking out of Russia. There was a terrible hullabaloo. We were pestered over this "red mercury" just as we are now being pestered over plutonium. We replied that "red mercury" is not used in

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nuclear warhead manufacture or in our nuclear technologies. Our enterprises do not produce the "red mercury" whose chemical formula was quoted to us, and in general we have no idea what this is all about.

[Korotchenko] But "red mercury" does exist?

[Kashirin] Yes, but only in the chemical sense and clearly not with the physical and chemical properties we were told of. If you take the journal KHIMIYA I ZHIZN for the last year, or issue No. 1 Academician Petrianov-Sokolov writes that this is the case. But the substance in question does not exist. But over the last 12-18 months the German press has been featuring articles saying that nuclear reactors in Russia are unsafe and should be closed. Although masses of all kinds of commissions from the IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency] and other international organizations have visited us and have never found any foul play or cases of negligence. Even the German environment minister came here, but the press campaign continued. And now I think the third stage has begun—about the supposed plutonium leak. The aim is simple—to undermine the nuclear industry, nuclear power and nuclear technology in Russia.

[Korotchenko] Maybe there is also another aim—to make money out of reconstructing a reactor, say?

[Kashirin] Yes, there is competition, perfectly normal competition, which we ourselves were seeking when we entered upon capitalism. The West clearly thinks that anything goes in the struggle against our nuclear technologies, which in terms of a number of indicators are considerably better than anything else, including in America—for instance, with regard to plutonium and uranium production. This is why this purposeful campaign to squeeze us out of the market is under way. They have seen that we have a very great deal of good-quality post-uranium that we are prepared to sell.

Another point. The nuclear sector, no matter what may be said, has not suffered neglect and decline and has survived amid this universal free-for-all. Despite profound conversion, our production has constantly increased, including in the spheres of the control and protection of nuclear materials. People are now saying: Let's place the Russian nuclear complex under international control. No one will ever permit this, because we do not need this. We have proof that the plutonium and uranium that were discovered there are not of Russian origin.

[Korotchenko] What sort of proof?

[Kashirin] First, every milligram of plutonium is registered from the moment of its production. In the shop where the plutonium is weighed and placed into containers, it is handled by at least five people. Then, when they leave the plutonium areas, each of them undergoes special inspection [kontrol]—it is impossible to take anything out. Second, plutonium is stuff that is very tricky to handle. You can't simply put it in your pocket. It is extremely dangerous, it is toxic, and so it is impossible simply to pick it up on your hands. There are no leaks in our country. The German side cannot convincingly prove that the plutonium came from Russia. They tell us to justify ourselves. But why should we?

There is another point that must be taken into account. Extreme caution is necessary in transporting and handling plutonium. It is a terrible contagion. The 300 grams in question would be enough to poison half Germany. The Germans acted as follows. Though they knew there was plutonium on the aircraft, and moreover in a container that was not designed for storage of plutonium, they did not warn the Russian special services. It should not have been allowed onto the aircraft, it should have been removed before takeoff, because anything could have happened during the flight.

There are also some other points, but, for my part, I can say that the ministry is confident about its storage of plutonium and uranium-235; we need no help, and we will not give anyone access to our secrets.

[Korotchenko] Personally I was very astonished by the fact that contraband plutonium should suddenly turn up on the same aircraft that was taking Deputy Atomic Industry Minister Viktor Sidorenko to an international conference. How did he himself react to this fact?

[Kashirin] I discussed this with Viktor Alekseyevich. The point is that he returned to Moscow the next day and learned of this whole affair there. As for the conference itself, it went all right. But all in all this is nasty, especially as Academician Sidorenko is a very courteous, cultured, intellectual person and a major scientist. And to link his name with this affair...

[Korotchenko] Representatives of your ministry met with German criminal Schmidbauer. What came of this meeting? Was our side given the chemical analyses of the plutonium about which they had been talking for so long?

[Kashirin] The chemical analyses was brought along. Admittedly, our people asked that it be made more detailed, but anyhow it is practically impossible to prove the origin of plutonium by chemical analyses. If there are nuances between our reactors, there are also nuances between American reactors, for instance. So you need to have a database on all the nuclear reactors in the world that have ever produced plutonium. First, this is pointless, and, second, no one will ever provide those data. Incidentally, this is all the more pointless in that the plutonium was not weapons-grade, as expert assessment confirmed. Now it is suitable as fuel for nuclear reactors.

[Korotchenko] Nevertheless, let us return to the recent case of the disappearance of uranium-238 from Arzamas-16. How many such incidents are there a year?

[Kashirin] For the moment let's not say it was a disappearance. That has yet to be established. Scientists

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containing precisely of this uranium are sometimes destroyed at Arzamas. Then they are buried and they are not guarded, because it is not dangerous. First of all we must investigate

[Komsomolets] Okay, but are there any proven cases?

[Kazurov] We are firmly certain of three cases of attempts to steal uranium-238 and one similar case involving uranium-235 in 1993-1994, but all these cases were cleared up. Although the MVD, which actually provides perimeter security at our enterprises, speaks of 11 cases. But, one way or another, all the guilty parties were punished. [Kazurov ends]

From the Editorial Office

Despite the embraces exchanged by Federal Counterintelligence Service leader Sergey Stepashin and Bernd Schmidbauer, official representative of the German special services, when they met, you get the feeling that the ill-fated plutonium-239 affair certainly did nothing to make them any stronger. One side is accusing the other of trying to make a mountain out of a molehill, while the other is saying that they are trying to make a molehill out of a mountain. However, it has to be noted that the hasty statement regarding the Russian origin of the plutonium that ended up in Munich and the scale of the propaganda campaign mounted in the German press about this played very much into the hands of those who are attempting to bring about a chill in relations between the FMG and Russia and also to squeeze out dangerous competitors in the extremely profitable market in nuclear materials. All this could scarcely be to the advantage of the Russian side.

Possibility of Theft from Arzamas-16 Denied

MM1108124794 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 11 Aug 94 p 2

[Report by Valentin Gubarev: "Can a Bomb Be Stolen at Arzamas-16?"]

[Text] Three years ago, with Academician Aleksandr Pavlovskiy, that is what we tried to do. So we engaged in theoretical calculations in his office. After about 20 minutes the academician said:

"Perhaps this problem can be solved but I do not know exactly how to set about it."

Such an eminent scientist, who has devoted his entire life to the creation of nuclear and thermonuclear weapons, cannot but be believed—who should know better than Pavlovskiy, not only an informed man but a professional of the highest class.

And here is sensational news that plutonium has been found in Germany. In particular the report hinted very transparently that European experts believe that the plutonium was stolen at Arzamas-16, in Russia's federal nuclear center, where "there are many of these bombs and various items containing plutonium..."

Before perestroyka and glasnost the majority of Arzamas inhabitants and specialists did not even have a suspicion as to what exactly they were doing. An "item" does after all mean not only an atom bomb but also, for instance, the security system for the Kremlin and Mausoleum. And since this apparatus was produced at the "Avangard" it too came under the "special equipment" heading. Even under the procedure introduced by Lavrentiy Beriya bombs were given affectionate female names as codenames—"Tatyana," "Annushka"—and tests were called "sessions." If you carried out a successful session you might receive an order but in the event of "failure"... no, better not to speak of it. It is curious that during many years of acquaintance with Yuliy Borisovich Khariton, scientific leader of Arzamas-16, he never once mentioned the words "atom bomb" but constantly spoke of "items."

A small digression. Last year Yuliy Borisovich became "honored scientific leader of the Russian Federal Nuclear Center" and his 90th birthday was celebrated this February. And many people thought that Khariton had retired from the business in which he had been engaged for 50 years. That is not true! Every day early in the morning Academician Khariton sets out for the "White House"—his office is there on the territory of the institute—and he returns home late in the evening. As it has for many years his working day lasts 12 hours and as before an enormous number of staffers try to see him to ask his advice, to discuss an experiment, or defend a project. Nothing in Yuliy Borisovich's life and work has changed since his health enables him to work as he used to. I make special mention of this for two reasons. First, Academician Khariton is now being put forward for the most prestigious prize for physicists—the Enrico Fermi prize, which is awarded to "active" scientists—and, second, the nuclear weapons security system is backed up by the renowned Khariton principle: "We must know ten times more than necessary!" Actually, in protecting against theft the principle sounds rather different: You must create not five or six lines of defense, as is the case at the Kurchatov Institute, for instance, but ten times more.

And that is how it really is! We visited Arzamas-16 with U.S. specialists from Los Alamos. They saw the first line of defense, and the second, and the third, and the fourth...

Some people believe that elements of permissiveness, that is to say "democracy," have even penetrated Arzamas-16. And there is no denying that some people in the city have tried to put the institute and plant under their "control," saying they were elected "by the people's will." But such apologists for leaders (and unfortunately they exist not only in the city itself but also in the oblast center and in the capital) do not understand that the people's will is in fact to protect nuclear weapons from the eyes of outsiders and to keep them safe. People in the city right now are heatedly discussing claims that Mr. Zhirinovskiy and his party colleagues were refused

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admittance to Arzamas-16. And it did happen. Zhirinovskiy did not manage to overcome the city guard and he was not admitted. Neither the Duma deputies' warnings nor threats that he would "sack everyone" were any help.

A terrorist has got into the "Avangard" plant. Moreover, he got into the special zone. There he seized a nuclear device and now, having taken cover in a casemate, is demanding that he be let out of the plant and that a helicopter be put at his disposal, or he will activate the nuclear device.

While talks are under way with the terrorist the "Alfa" group arrives at the plant. After a rapid briefing on the situation its members, using their own means and skills known only to themselves, break into the casemate and the terrorist is disarmed and neutralized.

A fantastic story? As far as the nuclear device is concerned, of course. And the "terrorist" was quite special—a high-level specialist, one of the security service personnel.

We could end here. But literally the day after the meetings at "Avangard" and the institute all the world's agencies and television companies reported that two plotters had been arrested in Arzamas-16 trying to take two lumps of uranium-238 weighing a total of about 15kg out of the city. How could that be?

The truth is that this uranium-238 has nothing to do with nuclear weapons. It is ordinary natural uranium which is as widespread throughout the world as other minerals. Not only can it not be used in a bomb, it cannot be used in any reactor. To "put it to work" the lumps of uranium must be processed at dozens of enterprises and the uranium must be enriched and purified. And the value of these two lumps is equal to the price of two cobble stones. In 1968 experiments involving various ores and substances including natural uranium were carried out at one of the institute's detonation sites. After the explosion pieces of rock flew in various directions and they are still lying in the forest. The magic word "uranium" and the big dollars allegedly to be made attracted the attention of not very educated people who do not understand the difference between natural and weapons-grade uranium and their ignorance pushed them toward crime.

Police Break Radioactive Smuggling Ring

MK0109092594 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 1 Sep 94 p 7

[Irina Shkarnikova report in the "Crime" column: "Yet Another Radioactive Theft"]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] In the town of Uvarovo, Tambov Oblast, some time between 26 and 30 August, unidentified persons breached the wall and penetrated the radioactive materials depot of the local chemical plant and stole a source of gamma-radiation which included an ampule with a radioactive substance, Cesium-137, which contained 4.5 grams of the material.

Officers from the Main Economic Crime Directorate of the Russian Federation Internal Affairs Ministry, jointly with internal affairs officers from Perm Oblast, uncovered in the town of Berezniki an organized criminal group which included directors of the Berezniki titanium and magnesium combine, the joint-stock company Maksim and the limited liability partnership Dark Horse & Co. They have smuggled 2,500 tonnes of titanium sponge from Russia worth 20 billion rubles. In addition, they have concealed approximately $10 million and 35 billion rubles from taxation. Within eight months of last year BMT-Invest's operating accounts at Inkombank worth $278,000 and 149 million rubles were seized. The investigation continues. Recently a criminal case has been opened against the smugglers.

'Progress' Failure Jeopardizes Manned Flight Program

MK0110014294 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 1 Sep 94 p 2

[Report by Sergey Leskov: "Uncontrollable 'Progress' Threatens Space Program"]

[Text] Two attempts to dock the space ferry "Progress M-24" with the "Mir" orbital station have failed. The ferry carries on board about two tonnes of foodstuffs, fuel, and material needed for operations.

IZVESTIYA's correspondent was told by Valeriy Ryumin, deputy general director of the "Energiya" Science and Production Association, flight controller for many years, and himself a cosmonaut, that it can be hoped to make a third and decisive attempt Friday [2 September]. But it would probably be conducted using a new and less well-tested remote control system which would involve the cosmonauts on board the "Mir."

A lot is really at stake. We do not have a spare "Progress," while "Mir" has sufficient food to last only until the end of September. A flight by a European Space Agency astronaut is scheduled for October, but if the apparatus required for the operations is not on board the station, the expedition would be pointless. Furthermore, "Progress" carries on board U.S. and Japanese containers under commercial contracts. If all this cargo is not delivered as consigned, the Russian Space Agency will have to pay damages which could ruin our space flight program.

The crew is hardly likely to survive until the next ferry's arrival, preparations for which require more than a month. But any decision to bring the crew back to Earth ahead of schedule will, to all intents and purposes, wipe out the entire program of Russian manned space flights.

Space Agency Determined To Dock Ship

LD1610072294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1641 GMT 31 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Veronika Romanenkova and Viktor Grishenkov]

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[Text] Moscow August 31 TASS—Attempts to dock the cargo spaceship Progress M-24 with the orbiting station Mir will be made until the fuel reserves aboard the cargo ferry are used up, a source close to the leaders of the commission in charge of space station technical support said.

"We have thoroughly analyzed the situation and are all set for the next, third, attempt to dock the ship," Russian space forces commander Colonel General Vladimir Ivanov said. He expressed the hope that the operation will go well, adding that all support services are doing their best.

Deputy general director of the Russian Space Agency Boris Ostroumov warned against "panicking." In his view, "everything is going well"—"equipment is just equipment, it is made to break down," he added. Ostroumov appeared calm and confident, hoping for the best.

He said that "there are practically no food" aboard the cargo ship and that the Mir space station crew has food reserves for another 40 days. If the third docking attempt fails, the space agency will send a new cargo ship which "is all set and ready for a liftoff."

However, mission control center and Colonel General Vladimir Ivanov have a different opinion. They said that the cosmonauts's food supplies will last only till September 15, and that the cargo ship has over 600 kilograms of food aboard. They also said that the ship which Ostroumov said is "all set and ready for a liftoff" is being prepared for taking into orbit a new crew, not a cargo.

Technicians Confer on Docking Problems

MM0109112794 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 1 Sep 94 p 1

[Report by Valeriy Baberdin: "Last Attempt? Extremely Little Fuel Left on Space Cargo Ship. Is There Enough for Two Docking Operations?"]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The new attempt was scheduled for the evening of 30 August. And again it proved unsuccessful. This time "Progress M-24" came to within slightly more than 10 meters of the station—and the automated system again turned it away from its docking trajectory. It was 4 meters from "Mir." During the circumnavigation, the transmitters showed there had been four collisions with the station, two of which were felt by the cosmonauts.

Now, specialists comment, there is extremely little fuel left on the space cargo ship. And mission control center controllers are inclined to switch to the remote guided mode, that is to hand over control at the close stage of the docking to orbital station crew commander Yuriy Maleschenko. It must be said that similar manipulations in space involving cargo ships have already been carried out by Gennadiy Manakhov and Viktor Afanasyev. But on earth, on a simulator. Yuriy Maleschenko has done this frequently and received an "excellent" rating.

Nonetheless there is some agitation—there is unique scientific equipment belonging to the European Space Agency, apparatus for going out into open space, and food on board the "Progress." Incidentally, the mission control center has reported that there is enough food on the station to last through 15 September. If there is one more failure the "Mir" expedition will have to return to Earth. But that is highly undesirable since the station in terms of its technical state requires the constant presence of a crew.

Yesterday afternoon there was a technical leaders conference at the mission control center near Moscow which examined all the technical details of the forthcoming docking. Their conclusions were optimistic. There are many options. The recommendations which they worked out were presented to th e So_ie Interdepartmental Commission. The next attempt will be made no earlier than Friday. We shall describe this further.

Regional Affairs

Three Armed Chechen Opposition Battalions Formed

LD3108163994 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1500 GMT 31 Aug 94

[Text] In the north Caucasian Republic of Chechnya, the forces opposing President Dzhokhar Dudayev continue intensive consultations to coordinate their activities. A journalists were [as heard] told at the Provisional Council that as of today three battalions were formed from among the Chechen volunteers. There are armed with 50 armoured personnel carriers and 10 tanks.

The Provisional Council set up its own bodies of power in six of the 11 Chechen regions. The peacekeeping mission carried out by the co-speaker of the Russian parliament, Ruslan Khasbulatov, is supported by 20 armed groups totalling about 3,000 men.

Further on Opposition Regional Power Bodies

LD3108123594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1154 GMT 31 Aug 94

[Text] Znamenskoye (Nadterechny District, Chechnya) August 31 (ITAR-TASS)—The Provisional Council of the Chechen Republic, which is seeking to topple President Dzhokhar Dudayev in this component republic of the Russian Federation, has established its own bodies of authority in six out of Chechnya's eleven regions.

Sources in the Provisional Council told ITAR-TASS that the council head, Umar Avturkhanov, had signed orders recognising the powers of the council-backed local authorities in the Nadterechny, Urus-Martan, Achkhoy-Martan, Vedeno, Shali and Nozhay-Yurt regions of Chechnya.

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According to local observers, the rift between Dudayev's supporters and opponents is particularly deep in the republic's rural areas, with opponents having the upper hand in most of them.

Dudayev Says Formation of Armed Force Inexpedient

LD1108173594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1257 GMT 11 Aug 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[Text] Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev said in an interview with Interfax that the formation of a single armed force of the opposition "does not deserve any attention."

Meanwhile, according to the Interfax correspondent in the Chechen capital, representatives of the opposition Provisional Council headed by Umar Avturkhanov and the so-called "peacemaking commission" of Russian parliament co-speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov are continuing intensive consultations to coordinate the actions of the armed formations which have joined their ranks.

Sources in the Nadterechnyy Region told Interfax that as of today there are already three battalions made up of volunteers. They are armed with 30 armored vehicles and 10 tanks.

About 20 armed groups amounting to 1000 people have already joined Khasbulatov's "peacemaking mission" that have more than 10 units of armored vehicles at their disposal.

Opposition Claims of Control of Gunsoy Refuted

LD1108163994 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1500 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Excerpt] The situation in Chechnya dominates the news at the moment. Opposition forces have now completely sealed off the city of Gunsoy. Radio Moscow Echo was informed of this by the Moscow headquarters of the opposition interim council. Adlan Khalilov, a member of the headquarters staff said that the government forces had been given until 1 September to lay down their weapons and surrender, otherwise the opposition will start an attack on Gunsoy.

However, according to Khalil Adayev, head of President Dudayev's press service, the situation in the republic is completely under the control of forces loyal to the present regime.

[Adayev] All institutions are functioning. The rally in support of the Chechen Republic's independence is continuing on the square here. At this moment in time no other rallies are being held anywhere else. Buses are on the move, both in Nadterechnyy and other districts. All key bridges there are controlled by the law enforcement agencies.

In his interview for Moscow Echo, Adayev also commented on the threat posed by the opposition forces located in Nadterechnyy district.

[Adayev] "I do not think they are talking the same language. Ostensibly they claim to have the same objectives. But our information suggests that, in reality, they have no forces that could resist us or take Gunsoy as they claim. I do not think these declarations that they will storm the city are realistic."

Meanwhile, an opposition delegation is still in Moscow. Some reports say that it may meet envoys from Grozny. However, the opposition's Moscow office asserts that the purpose of the visit is to hold talks with Russia. During the dialogue representatives of the interim council intend to seek an assurance from Moscow's representatives that Russia will not intervene in an internal conflict. [passage omitted]

FCS Denies Chechens Captured Officers

LD1108143994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1354 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] The Russian Federal Counterintelligence Service denies reports that Chechen security forces detained General Fedorchuk and Colonel Khvostochenko. A press release issued in Moscow on Wednesday called the reports groundless and described them as a propaganda orchestrated by Dzhokhar Dudayev.

The press release also says Grozny is circulating rumors about Russian special services training terrorist groups for operations on Russian territory with the purpose of shifting the blame for consequences off Chechnya.

The Counterintelligence Service stressed that all the steps being taken in the present condition are subordinated functions of the service in the territory of the Russian Federation to which Chechnya belongs under the acting Constitution. In this context it counts on the unconditional release of a senior intelligence officer captured on Russian territory. The press release places the responsibility for the criminal act on Dzhokhar Dudayev as well as on the persons carrying it out.

Ultimatum Released of Captured Officer

LD1108122194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1050 GMT 11 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 11 Aug—The Russian Federal Counterintelligence Service [FCS] is resolutely insisting on the unconditional release of the senior FCS officer, captured last week on the territory of Chechnya. "All responsibility for this act of banditry lies alike with the perpetrators and with Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev in person," ITAR-TASS was told today at the FCS public relations center.

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The [illegible] emphasized once again that "all measures it is taking in the current conditions clearly come under the functions of the special services within the borders of the Russian Federation, of which the Chechen Republic is a constituent part according to the Constitution in force."

Counterintelligence categorically denied accusations made by official Grozny that the Russian special services are training terrorist groups for action on Russian territory and described as "fake" reports of the alleged arrest in Chechnya of General Fedor[illegible] and Colonel Klimovchenko.

Khasbulatov Sees Scenario for Presidency Bid

[Editorial] For Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 7 Sep 94 p 2

[Interview with Ruslan Khasbulatov by Aleksandr Yevstafyev; date and place not given: "Ruslan Khasbulatov: If They Get Me Mad, I'll Become President"]

[Text] The way that the roles have been distributed in the new-look coalition government created by the united Chechen opposition is currently being kept very secret. To prevent its members from coming under threat from Dudayev's terrorists—that is the explanation from those in the know. But, as Ruslan Khasbulatov assured us recently, all opposition leaders there are getting their just deserts. The ex-speaker himself has so far preferred to remain in reserve as leader of the peacekeeping group. Although, as I quote, "if the Yeltsin supporters get me mad, I'll become president to spite them and anyone else. All I need do is go into a square and shout, 'I want to be ruler of Chechnya!' The people would oust Dudayev in a flash and put me in his place." That was how our conversation with the former speaker began.

[Yevstafyev] Ruslan Imranovich, until quite recently you had sworn that you had finally and irrevocably left politics for science. What made you break that vow?

[Khasbulatov] I did not break my vow. I am still outside of politics. It is the people who are saying they want to make me president or leader. It seems that one opposition leader—Yelgar Mamodayev—has even appointed me chairman of the Chechen State Council. But, in rallying the republic's spiritual leaders around me, I only want to help my people. And I want to do so peacefully. All we need is for Dudayev to go.

He could, of course, be "made to go." I am still reading what you are writing—about Lebanonization. "Well, there are armed detachments here with 10 times the forces of Lebanon's—with tanks and armored transporters.

[Yevstafyev] But Dudayev has all those things too. The Shalinskiy Tank Regiment, for instance.

[Khasbulatov] The Shalinskiy Tank Regiment no longer exists as a combat unit. I have seen all its commanders without exception here in Tolstoy-yurt. They even invited me to visit a unit. But I refused. They will not turn their weapons against the people on anyone's orders. At the same time, there are combat detachments which could deal with Dudayev in a single day—in 24 hours. And their commanders have advised me of this. I asked them how many casualties there would be. The military leaders estimated between 40 and 100 on each side. For most of Russian troops unclaimed. And I replied: "The Dudayev regime is not worth a single life. I do not say this out of hypocrisy, but on the basis of my own convictions. Enough people have already been killed in Chechnya by weapons left behind for the purpose by Russia.

Yes, I welcome the Russian leadership's support for the opposition. But it would have been timely two years ago, when Yeltsin was encouraging Dudayev in every possible way. We need to look further into why the country's top leadership at the time did not follow the decisions of the Congress and the Supreme Soviet, but supported the Dudayev regime. Clearly, because it differed little from the Yeltsin regime. It supported it and armed it.

[Yevstafyev] What is your view of the prospect of troops being sent to the Chechen Republic?

[Khasbulatov] It would be another Afghanistan. If not worse. A pan-Caucasian war would then be inevitable. And it would spill over into Russia. I have been visited here by the commanders of North Caucasian detachments who fought in Abkhazia. They said: "We have already sent out the word, we are assembling our detachments at secret bases and moving the fight into Chechnya, against Russian aggression." I looked at these people and understood all their fears.

My attitude to Yeltsin is well known. I will never ally myself with him or be reconciled with him. But it seems to me that many of those who are currently his friends want him to send the troops in. When a few hundred corpses appear, it will be easy to get rid of him. I am not an ally. But there is no doubt that people are trying to use the small republic of Chechnya for these global experiments. And both Dudayev and Yeltsin/Gaydar are playing into their hands. The former needs to rally the nation around him in the face of an outside threat. The latter is simply working through the money, equipment, and so forth obtained from Russia. As if it were his money, rather than the people's.

The only strange thing is that Moscow believes Dudayev unconditionally. For instance, nobody here will give him their backing for the introduction of troops. But in Moscow he makes out that people in Chechnya are on tenterhooks waiting for the Russian "liberators" to be sent in. But the first "liberator" will be greeted with bullets. Avtorkhanov is keeping quiet about that. Either out of timidity or inexperience. And people believe him.

[Yevstafyev] In the following scenario [illegible] Dudayev is ousted and you are elected leader of the republic. You are then elected a Federation Council deputy under the quota of seats for Chechnya. You set

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up an opposition faction in the Federation Council and contest the Russian presidency at the next elections.

[Khasbulatov:] That is a possibility. If I were to say "I want to," all the leaders would make way for me. I have already been told that it would be useless for them to compete with me. But if I said "I don't want to," then they would want to be given the chance to take charge for a bit. "What's your hurry?" I told them. There is no longer any sense in handing out jobs in return for bribes—everything's been torn asunder; there is nothing left to steal. Everything will have to be rebuilt. And I will help. But I won't do it myself. I am simply tired. After all, I'm only 50. And I have to have a life of my own too.

One thing I don't understand is—why the Kremlin proclaims that Khasbulatov must not get in here [Russia retrieval] under any circumstances. To be frank, if they are going to be so maniacal in pursuing that idea, I will indeed become president here. We will set up a Federation Council faction and I will run for president of Russia. What are they all so scared of? What are they going to do now—declare war on the Caucasus? Sensible things I can understand. But crazy things... Anyway, I don't want to. But if people badger me... Despite myself, I will say: "Yes... Yeltsin, who are you to tell me what to do? I'll up and go for it."

Chechnya Pact Shows Cossack Regional Power Bid

*MM1108143*94 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 1 Sep 94 p 2*

[Report by Yuriy Bespalov: "Will the Cossacks Fight the Army on Chechnya's Side?"]

[Text] Rostov-na-Donu—It has taken the Rostov Oblast authorities almost a week to respond to the unprecedented treaty signed by Nikolay Kozitsyn, ataman of the Oblast Union of Cossacks of the Don Army, and Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev. Vladimir Yermolayev, deputy head of the oblast administration, condemned this document in the most resolute terms, stressing that the signing of the treaty could considerably destabilize the situation in the region and poses a threat to citizens' lives.

Apart from the fact that the "Treaty on Friendship and Cooperation Between the Great Don Army and the Chechen Republic of Ichkeria" has given Dudayev many political points and was regarded by Cossacks from neighboring oblasts as a clear betrayal, this document is also noteworthy in that it is the first time that the Cossack elite has staked its claims to power in Rostov Oblast so openly and unequivocally. In the text of the treaty the public organization—and that is precisely what the Union of Cossacks is—acts as a sovereign state, a full-fledged component of the Federation. The document continually talks of "its territory," "its law-enforcement organs," and even about its own "state system." The Cossacks, by assuming the duties and functions characteristic solely of organs of state power, have found themselves faced with very dangerous conflicts. Article 19 of the treaty, for instance, says: "The sides pledge not to permit on their territory and also to cross their territory armed forces and formations, weapons, munitions, and military gear destined for use in a struggle against one of the contracting parties." Does it not follow from this that the Cossacks may enter into military operations against the Russian Army on Dudayev's side?

Judging from the reaction of the Don Cossacks themselves, they have evidently granted their Ataman Kozitsyn this "honorary" right since he has taken the liberty of making such an unexpected political move. In any case several district [okruzhnyye] atamans have disowned this treaty.

What about the authorities? Their reaction was as belated as it was sluggish. Oblast Prosecutor A. Posadelov said that a "legal complaint to the courts is being prepared for Kozitsyn's actions to be deemed unlawful." However the leadership of the Cossack organization has so often displayed its disregard for the laws openly and with impunity that the prosecutor's "threat" will hardly elicit anything more than a smile from the courageous atamans.

3 Afghan Assault Groups Allegedly Sent to Chechnya

MK1108130094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 11 Aug 94 p 4

[Report by Gamlet Matevosyan from Yerevan: "Azerbaijan Exports Afghan Mujahidin"]

[Text] As has been reported by the FAKT news agency citing the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic's [N&R] military intelligence headquarters, three assault elements of Afghan mujahidin serving in the Azeri army were removed from the Agdam front on orders from the command the other day and sent to Chechnya to swell the number of Dzhokhar Dudayev's government troops.

According to an N&R Information and Press Department spokesman, this is not the first instance where Azerbaijan is being used as a staging area for sending Islamic fundamentalists to CIS territory. Observers think Azerbaijan is making extraordinary efforts to destabilize the situation in the Muslim-populated regions adjacent to Russia trying to divert the attention of Russian diplomats from the settlement of the Karabakh conflict zone.

Moscow Oblast Police Boss on Antiterror Measures

*MM1108111*94 Moscow KARAVAN I TRIBUNA in Russian 11 Aug 94 p 4*

[Report under the "Crime Zone" rubric by Yelena Gorelova: "Gangs Roam the Capital"]

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[Text] There are more than 130 organized criminal groupings in the Moscow area; moreover, 30 of these are firmly established, well-armed gangs, Lieutenant General Vyacheslav Ogorodnikov, chief of the Moscow Oblast Internal Affairs Administration, told ITAR-TASS' correspondent. In his words, the militia recently neutralized a group of nine people in Pavlovo-Posada who specialized in drivers of heavy goods trucks. They attacked the trucks on roads in various regions of the oblast.

In the last eight months in the oblast 66 businessmen have been murdered and 123 murders connected with entrepreneurial activity have been committed.

New special subunits are needed to check the growth of serious crime, the leader of the oblast militia believes. "The two special-purpose militia detachments which we have (in Lyubertsy and Podolsk) should be redirected toward the fight against street crime, since the present patrol service is physically unable to cope with this."

Tatarstan Claims Anticrime Successes

MM0106081994 Moscow NOVAYA YEZHEDNEVNAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Aug 94 p 1

[POSTFACTUM report: "Shaymiyev Secures High Crime Clear-Up Rate; How Is Crime Rate To Be Reduced?"]

[Text] "Almost eight of every 10 crimes committed on Tatarstan's territory are being cleared up today, and that is the highest figure in Russia," the republic's President Mintimer Shaymiyev said, speaking on local television on the eve of the Republic Day celebrations.

In the president's opinion, Tatarstan owes the improvement in the crime situation to the law on emergency measures to combat crime adopted in May 1993 as an interim measure, whose effect was subsequently extended by decision of Tatarstan's parliament. "Our critics suspected this law of violating human rights but the result today is plain to see," Shaymiyev said. "The measures being taken are backed by all the republic's law-abiding population."

Altay Official on 'Critical' Harvesting Situation

MM1108101794 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 11 Aug 94 p 1

[Report from PRAVDA, ITAR-TASS "In Brief" column: "Altay Grain Threatened with Ruin"]

[Text] The harvesting situation in the Altay region has been described as critical by Arkadiy Zaiker, deputy head of the kray administration and chief of the kray's agricultural administration. Grain was sown on almost 4 million hectares of land, but has been threshed on only 12 percent of the area in question. There is a lack of fuel, and machinery lies idle in the fields.

Plans To Relocate Miners' Families from Far North

MM0109091794 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 1 Sep 94 p 1

[POSTFACTUM report from the "From Our Correspondents and News Agencies" roundup: "Exodus of Miners from the North"]

[Text] It is planned to relocate 50,000 mining families from the regions of the Far North, Yuriy Maiorov, general director of the "Rossiyskiy Ugol" Company, announced.

This Russian investment company was set up especially for the purposes of this program for constructing housing for the resettlers. This year already, 850 families from the waning Khalmer-Yu mine (on the shores of the Kara Sea) have received or will receive apartments in Russia's central zone. In all, around 5,000 families from this settlement stand to be relocated within two years.

Omsk Company To Produce 'Fundamentally New' Bus

MM0109100194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 10 Aug 94 p 1

[POSTFACTUM report from the "From Our Correspondents and News Agencies" roundup: "Municipal Buses Will Be Produced in Omsk"]

[Text] The new "Omskavtokam" Joint-Stock Company has been formed in Omsk for the production of a fundamentally new type of municipal bus—the "KamAZ-5262," designed to carry 114 passengers.

The founders of the joint-stock company are Russia's industrial giants—KamAZ and the Omsk-based "Poisk" Aerospace Association. It is planned to produce a trial batch of buses by the end of the year, and to increase production to 2,000 by 1997.

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International Affairs

Ukraine To Participate in PFP Exercises

LD3109091294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0900 GMT 1 Sep 94

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Nonel Kniliovskaya for TASS]

[Text] Lvov September 1 TASS—Motorized units of the Carpathian military district will take part in field exercises "Bridge of Cooperation-94" conducted with the aim of promoting the implementation of the Partnership for Peace programme. The exercises will be held in the settlement of Bolshoi north of Poznan. The exercises will be supervised by the commander of NATO Forces in Europe, General Joliever, Commander-in-Chief of NATO Forces in Central Europe, General Ordiam, Commander of the First U.S. Armoured Division General Carter and Chief-of-Staff of the Silesia military district, General Sadovsky.

Servicemen from 13 countries will form a battalion to carry out peace-keeping tasks in areas of conflict. A British, a Dutch and Romanian regiments will take part in the exercises jointly with Ukrainian servicemen.

During the exercises the troops will be trained to patrol territories, escort people and convoys of trucks, exercise control over the movement of transport vehicles, guard territories affected by conflicts, evacuate and replace personnel and replenish food supplies by means of helicopters.

Kiev To Supply Military Hardware to Hungary

LD3108194094 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 31 Aug 94

[Text] Describing the state of Ukrainian-Hungarian relations in the military field, one can point out with certainty their dynamic nature. Evidence of this is the August meeting between the defense ministers of the two countries in Mukachevo and the official visit by Mr. Lopata, chief of general staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, to the Republic of Hungary on 29-31 August that was paid as a result of the negotiations between the heads of the defense ministries.

In Budapest Mr. Lopata met Defense Minister Kolet and his Hungarian counterpart Mr. Desk. The main topic under discussion was the issue of supply of Ukrainian military hardware and spare parts to the Hungarian Armed Forces in exchange for medicines, food products, and medical equipment for Ukraine. The combat equipment that is planned to be supplied to the Hungarian side would have to be destroyed in Ukraine in fulfillment of its international obligations. Joint experts groups were set up during the negotiations to discuss specific issues and mechanisms of fulfilling the bilateral agreements between the defense ministers of the two countries in Mukachevo.

Libyan Diplomat Views Prospects for Relations

AU3108144294 Kiev URYADOVYY KURYER in Ukrainian 30 Aug 94 p 2

[URYADOVYY KURYER report: "Will Libya Become Closer?"]

[Text] On the occasion of the Great Revolution of 1 September 1969, temporary charge d'Affaires of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah Muftah al-Fayturi met with representatives of the press, and also with chairwoman of the association "Ukraine-Libya," Valentyna Mykolaienko, at the "Ukrayina" Society.

Mr. Alfitori spoke about the prospects of Ukrainian-Libyan relations in the sphere of the production of consumer goods and foodstuffs, the exchange of experience in agriculture, and assistance on the part of the Ukrainian side in building industrial facilities on Libyan territory. For his part, he promised support in taking Ukraine's children to the Libyan Mediterranean coast for recreation.

Ambassador Shcherbak Meets PLO Chairman Arafat

AU3108120994 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 31 Aug 94 p 11

[Unattributed report: "Yasir Arafat: We are Ready for Dialogue"]

[Text] Yuriy Shcherbak, Ukraine's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary in Israel, met with PLO chairman and head of the Palestinian Autonomy Yasir Arafat. The meeting took place on the territory of Palestinian autonomy—on the city of Gaza.

The ambassador conveyed to the people of Palestine best wishes for success in the development of their self-government, the improvement of their economy, and the creation of administrative institutions in conditions of a just peace. Yu. Shcherbak briefed the Palestinian leader in detail about the present situation in Ukraine and drew attention to the steps by President L. Kuchma toward overcoming the economic crisis.

Yasir Arafat spoke about the course of the peace process in the Middle East and dwelt, in particular, on unresolved problems of Palestinian-Israeli relations and difficulties in creating Palestinian autonomy.

They discussed questions of Ukraine's participation in granting Palestinians assistance in the sphere of education, health protection, and environmental protection.

Arafat expressed warm gratitude to Ukraine for its support of the Palestinian cause and asked Shcherbak to inform the leadership of our state about the readiness on the part of the Council of Palestinian Autonomy to hold a constructive dialogue and to establish friendly relations with Ukraine.

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Government Delegation Visits Philippines

AU1108143194 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 30 Aug 94 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Ukraine and the Philippines: Official Contacts"]

[Text] The visit by the official delegation of Ukrainian Government officials headed by Ukraine's deputy minister of foreign affairs Oleksandr Makarenko to the Republic of the Philippines has ended. It was the first visit at such a level in the history of independent Ukraine official contact between Ukraine and the Philippines.

In the course of the visit, intensive negotiations were held on prospects of bilateral relations in the political, trade economic, educational, scientific, technological, and cultural spheres. Principal problems of contemporary international life were also discussed. Heads of the official delegations also signed a joint statement that outlines specific prospects of further bilateral cooperation between the two countries and also specified consecutive steps in creating an efficient contractual and legal foundation for Ukrainian-Philippines relations.

Ukraine Democratic Union Supports Dudayev

LD0309012194 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1210 GMT 1 Sep 94

[Text] Kiev, 1 September—The "Ukraine" democratic union, which includes over 30 national-patriotic parties and civil organizations, sent a telegram to Dzhokhar Dudayev, president of the Chechen Republic, which says that "he is supporting the struggle of Chechen patriots for the independence of the motherland from the eternal enemy—the Russian empire."

The "Ukraine" democratic union also adopted a statement which protests the efforts of Moscow to suppress the aspirations of the Chechen people who want to live freely and be independent. "We ask that the president, the Supreme Council, the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers, political parties and civil organizations, and all people of goodwill adopt all peaceful and decisive measures to protect the Chechen people from the encroachments of the new Russian empire," the statement reads.

Nationalist Group Criticizes Ties To Russia

LD3110020894 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1500 GMT 31 Aug 94

[Text] Lviv—On 31 August the Lviv leadership of the regional organization of Rukh [VNRU] [Nationwide Movement of Ukraine], which was formed in 1992 on the initiative of Larysa Skoryk after the split at the third all-Ukrainian assembly of NRU [People's Movement of Ukraine, Rukh], adopted an appeal to the local population and the people of Ukraine entitled "Let Us Unite in the Face of Danger." In particular, the appeal says: "A sharp change in the political situation in Ukraine after the election of the president, the deputies, and the Chairman of the Supreme Council leads to a sharp opposition between the two main political forces, national democratic forces, which firmly abide by the stand of Ukrainian statehood and independence, and anti-Ukrainian, pro-Moscow, imperial-chauvinist and neo-Bolshevik forces, which are conducting, either openly or in a disguised manner, a policy of destroying the independent Ukrainian state. An agreement on the so-called joint customs service of the two states, which means that Ukraine actually renounces its own customs service and the opening of the eastern borders, evokes more than anxiety. Therefore, a step toward liquidating independence has been made.

At a meeting with the foreign ministers of Russia, Oleksandr Moroz unequivocally stated that in its foreign policy Ukraine would not make a single step without preliminarily taking advice and consulting its "elder brother." This means that Ukraine actually renounces an independent foreign policy and slips down to a status of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, as far as these issues are concerned.

The Lviv leadership of the regional organization of VNRU appeals to political and public organizations to give a proper assessment to the treacherous actions by the leadership of the state, to consolidate and unite in order to defend our statehood and independence.

Writers Concerned Over Ukrainian-Russian Treaty

LD3110012094 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 2200 GMT 31 Aug

[Text] Kiev—A statement by a number of Ukrainian writers in connection with drafting a treaty on friendship, cooperation and partnership between Ukraine and Russia was made public on 31 August. The statement points out that the Ukrainian delegation's stance on defending the national interests of Ukraine has weakened. The statement reads, as follows: "What concerns us most is that Russia refuses to perform the universally-accepted norms of international law and its international obligations under the UN Charter and the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, and is unwilling to recognize the inviolability of borders and territorial integrity of Ukraine as one of the co-founders of the UN."

Signed by Dmytro Bilous, Ihor Honchar, Ivan Drach, Raysa Ivanchenko, Vitaliy Kasperuk, Volodymyr Koniev, Pavlo Movchan, Yuriy Mushketyk, Volodymyr Pylatov, Mykola Rudenko, Oleh Chornobay, and Valeriy Shevchuk, the statement says that Russian diplomacy is imposing upon Ukraine a bloc pact on military cooperation which essentially puts an end to Ukraine's neutrality and non-alignment that were proclaimed by the Declaration on State Sovereignty of Ukraine of 16 July 1990, and aims at the participation of Ukraine's Armed Forces in a chauvinistic policy of military conflicts

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which can be unleashed (and have already been unleashed) by Russia's imperialist military and at the involvement of Ukraine in Russia's confrontation with other states.

The statement's authors go on to say that Russia does not relinquish its traditional compilation of demands such as access to the control and supervision of Ukraine's power generation, transport, communications, information systems, and space industry, and domination in every sector of Ukraine's economy and finances.

The undersigned believe that both the 80 percent of the draft treaty's text that have already been agreed and the differences of principle cannot be a matter for a limited group of experts and politicians to deal with. They insist that, as far as this [artful]—from the standpoint of Ukraine—issue is concerned, the Ukrainian delegation at the talks should learn the opinion of the Ukrainian public at large, rather than only that of "the interested parties."

National Affairs

Kuchma To Present Stance on Non-Proliferation

LD3108936]"FM Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1200 GMT 31 Aug 94

[Excerpts] Kiev—Dmytro Tabachnyk, head of presidential administration, on 31 August held a briefing for journalists at the administration of the Ukrainian president. [passage omitted]

Dmytro Tabachnyk said he was certain Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma had a strategy and action plan of his own on Ukraine's accession to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and its participation in it. He added that Leonid Kuchma and Hennadiy Udovenko, acting foreign affairs minister, were now working on the official position, which might be presented as early as next week.

Kuchma To Urge Lifting Deputy Immunity

LD3108073194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1801 GMT 31 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Victor Denisenkov and Mikhail Melnik]

[Text] Kiev, August 31 TASS—Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma intends to call on the republic's parliament to consider lifting deputy immunity. Kuchma's chief of staff Dmytro Tabachnyk told a press conference here today.

According to Tabachnyk, Kuchma is supported by more than one hundred members of parliament.

According to some sources, some five hundred members of parliament have committed a variety of crimes but cannot be taken to account because of their immunity. The president's move is evidence of his determination to start a serious struggle against crime in the country, beginning with the top echelons of power.

According to Tabachnyk, Leonid Kuchma has issued a number of orders and instructions lately aimed at combatting corruption, crime in the economy and abuses in foreign economic activity.

The president has set up a special group of investigators comprising representatives of the national security service, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the chief procurator's office.

According to the chief of staff, the first results of their activity are expected to become known by the middle of September.

Without disclosing specific names and commenting on the investigative process, Tabachnyk said the group were now investigating a number of cases involving some highly-placed officials. Their names will be made public after September 15, when the parliament resumes work after summer vacations, he said.

Kuchma, Meshkov Meet; 'Positions Drawing Closer'

LD3108190494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1742 GMT 31 Aug 94

[Text] According to well-informed sources in the Crimean president's staff, Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma and Crimean President Yuri Meshkov met at Kuchma's dacha in the Crimean village of Simeiz.

The two presidents discussed current problems, above all their conflicts with the parliaments "which are trying to interfere in the sphere of the executive authority's competence."

The sources said that Kuchma, who favored the presidential republic in Ukraine, supported Meshkov. The same source said that "after a 'war,' the presidents' positions are drawing closer."

Meshkov is ready for peaceful coexistence and for a dialogue, he said.

Moroz Says Parliament To Rescind Sevastopol Decision

LD3108021494 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 2055 GMT 31 Aug 94

[Text] Kiev, 31 August—Oleksandr Moroz, chairman of the Supreme Council of Ukraine, said in an exclusive interview with a UNIAN correspondent that the decision by the Sevastopol city council on the Russian status of the city would be rescinded.

"I met with the chairman of the Sevastopol City Council before this decision was approved. He did not chair that session but he said there was an initiative group that insisted on holding a session on this subject. Undoubtedly, this decision is anticonstitutional, it contributes

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neither to the solution of the Sevastopol problems nor to the solution of the problems facing Ukraine as a whole, and it goes beyond the framework of the Constitution of Ukraine. The easiest thing to do today would be to disband the Sevastopol City Council. It seems to me that this should not be done. The decision has been approved, and we shall assess it at the Supreme Council. However, there is no need to present them as heroes and martyrs to the idea of a special status of Sevastopol. This decision will be hanging in the air. We shall, undoubtedly, rescind it at the Supreme Council. Perhaps someone hopes that we will step up the atmosphere around this, but this will never happen. I think that people will understand that everyone should mind his own business. Therefore, this decision will have neither legal nor juridical or organizational consequences. And I am sure that the parliament and the power structures of Russia will not respond positively to this decision. I believe that this will be a kind of an educational lesson to the City Council of Sevastopol," pointed out Oleksandr Morozov.

Crimean Executive-Legislative Conflict Continues

LD1108214294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1747 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] The confrontation between the Crimean president and parliament is approaching a critical point, said Minister for Crimean State Affairs Viktor Morozov. He told Interfax in an exclusive interview that the essence of the conflict was that the president wanted to build a presidential republic and the parliament a parliamentary one.

"There is a struggle for power and for the right to appoint the heads of local governments," he said.

He announced that on Tuesday the Crimean parliament presidium took the decision to amend the law on the president in order to weaken the presidential authority and take away its powers.

"This is an exact replica of the situation in Russia," he said.

The presidium is drafting a decision which will be discussed by the Crimean parliament at the beginning of September, he went on to say. The parliament will raise the question of confidence in the government once again. This is one more way of weakening the president's authority, he said.

Behind the conflict is the absence of a normal constitution, said Morozov. He also said that the problems might be solved by forming up a normal vertical system of executive authority accountable to the president and by delimiting the functions between the parliament and president.

In his opinion, this can be done either on the basis of an agreement or through a conflict.

Asked what the president's administration was planning to do, Morozov said that it was planning to propose its own variant of power sharing and its own mechanism of shaping a vertical system of executive authority, and adopt a law on local self-government.

"I think that the discussion of the draft law on local government will reveal whether the deputies are trying to seize power or to create an adequate mechanism of running Crimea," he said.

Meshkov Reportedly To Suspend Parliament

LD1108163094 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1450 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] Simferopol, 11 Aug—As a representative of the state administration of Crimea has reported, a decree by the president of the Republic of Crimea temporarily suspending the activities of the Supreme Council of Crimea is being made ready for signing. In accordance with this draft, President Meshkov, proceeding from the Constitution of the Republic of Crimea, is to hold a referendum on confidence in the current composition of the Supreme Council of Crimea on 7 November this year. If two thirds of the electors vote no confidence in the Supreme Council of Crimea, elections to the Supreme Council will be planned for 24 January 1995. Under condition that two thirds of Crimea's population vote confidence in the Supreme Council of Crimea, a referendum on confidence in the president of the autonomy will have to be held on 17 January 1995.

As a whole, the draft decree complies with the Constitution of the Republic of Crimea, except for the fact that the president cannot suspend the activities of the Supreme Council of Crimea before the referendum scheduled for 7 November.

The draft is dated 3 September.

Sevastopol Officers' Leader on City Council Decision

LD1108225094 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 2055 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] Sevastopol, 11 Aug—Captain Yevhenii Lupakov, chairman of the Sevastopol branch of the Union of Officers of Ukraine, said in an interview with a UNIAR correspondent that the decision by the Sevastopol city council on the Russian legal status of the city testifies to the level of political maturity of the deputies. "Having taken power in the city, the deputies are trying primarily to satisfy their own political ambitions, and this is why they approved this decision," he said.

As regards the joint basing of Ukraine's naval forces and the Black Sea Fleet [BSF] in Sevastopol, Mr Lupakov believes that "this destabilizes the situation to a certain extent, however, the reason for this is the fact no decision has been made as yet on the status of the Black

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Sea Fleet." Lupakov believes that "the Black Sea Fleet should be granted the status of foreign troops on the territory of Ukraine."

Sevastopol Naval School To Train 'Loyal' Officers

AU1709134794 Kiev SELSKIE USHRAINY in Ukrainian 09 Aug 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "They Pledged Allegiance to Ukraine"]

[Text] All 400 cadets in the first year of studies at the Sevastopol Naval Institute have pledged allegiance to the people of Ukraine.

This year, the prestigious military educational establishment admitted young people from all regions of our country. There are 112 Crimean citizens, including 50 Sevastopol residents, among the freshmen. As our correspondent was told by chief of the school Rear Admiral Viktor Makarov, the cadets will subsequently gain experience on ships cruising into the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea.

Military Higher Educational School Opens in Kiev

LD1108171094 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1051 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] Kiev, 11 Aug—A new higher educational establishment—Kiev Military Humanitarian Institute of the Ukrainian Armed Forces—has been opened in Kiev. On the occasion Colonel General Ivan Bizhan, Ukraine's deputy defense minister, greeted the teachers and the students of the new establishment on behalf of Acting Defense Minister Valeriy Shmarov. He pointed out that the opening of this educational establishment initiated a new stage in the development of Ukraine's Armed Forces.

Fleet Toughens Measures Against Property Theft

LD1108204794 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 2300 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] Sevastopol (no dateline as received)—The Black Sea Fleet press center told UNIAN on 11 August that Black Sea Fleet commander Admiral Eduard Baltin sent an appeal to Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov, procurator of Crimea Valentin Kuptsov, Viktor Semenov, chairman of the city council, and Ivan Yermolaiev, governor of the city of Sevastopol. The appeal, in particular, points out that the issue on the storage of armaments and technical means on the ships and in the units of the fleet was considered at the Black Sea Fleet Military Council. A package of measures to prevent and fight the plundering of military property was worked out.

The military council believes that the measures currently taken in the fleet to that end would be much more effective with the active participation of local law enforcement bodies. "A situation occurred when at all the registered and spontaneous market places, the stolen military property—especially the items that contain precious metals—are being sold and bought openly, without control and with impunity. Local newspapers carry provocative advertisements on the purchase of military property. In conditions of insufficient and unstable financing, all this impels workers and servicemen of the military industry and separate military servicemen to theft," says the appeal.

The Black Sea Fleet Military Council is asking to discuss urgently the issue on law enforcement measures to prevent the criminal buying and selling by commercial structures and individuals of the stolen military property, components and military equipment, especially that which contains precious metals.

Mawil on Possible New Deputy Premier Post

LD1108192794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1451 GMT 11 Aug 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—compiled by Nikolay Zhevtchuyev, Andrey Petrovskiy. Edited by Vladimir Shvedkin]

[Text] Prime Minister Vitaliy Masol does not rule the emergence of a new vice-premier with responsibility for currency regulation and credits.

"Such a post is needed and will probably be established soon," he told reporters in Kiev on Tuesday. Masol described government changes as a continuous process.

He also wants to set up structures handling the country's foreign debt. "I am still unaware of how big it is", Masol said.

Earlier the prime minister said that currency regulation reforms as envisaged by the presidential decree could not be carried out until after western financial aid was granted.

"We have no resources to back up the national currency", Masol said. He attacked the IMF for its reliance on self-regulation of the economy. Masol said his government could not afford price liberalization at the moment saying this could lead to rising inflation and a fall in living standards.

The prime minister pledged his government's commitment not to increase bread prices. Nor does he see reason for grain imports this year.

[F Note: Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin speaking at the weekend raised the possibility of grain exports to Ukraine, Moldova and other CIS states affected by this year's drought spell. His counterpart Sergey Tereshchenko of Kazakhstan in a recent interview with Interfax also said that his country was planning grain exports to CIS fellow states—Russia, Ukraine and so on.

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Cabinet Issues New Appointments

AU2208085194 Kiev URYADOVYY KURYER in Ukrainian 11 Aug 94 p 2

[New "Cabinet of Ministers Appointments"]

[Text] PERSHYN, Volodymyr Leonidovych—chief of the Cabinet of Ministers Main Administration for Questions of Economic Reform.

HLADKOVSKYY, Hennadiy Stanislavovych—chief of the Donetsk Railroad.

KULESNOCHENKO, Leonid Mykolayovych, deputy minister of machine building, military-industrial complex, and conversion—chairman of the Ukrainian part of the Ukrainian-Belarusian Commission for Questions of Trade and Economic Cooperation.

Ivanyna To Head Parliament Press Center

LD1108161594 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1200 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] Kiev—UNIAN learnt on 11 August that the Supreme Council of Ukraine chairman [Oleksandr Moroz] issued instructions appointing Vasyl Ivanyna as new head of the press service of the Supreme Council. Prior to this appointment, he had held the office of first deputy head of the press service of Ukraine's President and Cabinet of Ministers and before that official in charge of the [UNIPRO] [UNIPRESS] magazine.

Interviewed by UNIAN, Vasyl Ivanyna acknowledged that criticism of the parliamentary press service's activity was just and that he regarded improving its work as one of his tasks. To do so, the number of staff at the press service will increase from five to 10. Vasyl Ivanyna also announced that a special room would soon be made available to parliamentary correspondents. It will have all the equipment necessary.

Also on 11 August, Vasyl Ivanyna held his first conference with the parliamentary press service.

Ministry Forecasts Decline in Industrial Output

LD1108130694 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 2053 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] Kiev, 11 Aug—Three issues were considered at the sitting of Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers. The results of the implementation of Ukraine's state budget during the first six months of 1994, proposals for specifying the main indices of Ukraine's economic and social development plan for the current year, and a plan of undertakings to mark the 50th anniversary of Ukraine's liberation from fascist invaders.

A news conference was held on the results of the sitting. It was attended by Ukraine's Finance Minister Petro Hermanchuk, Economy Minister Roman Shpek, and Ivan Kuras, deputy prime minister for cultural issues. The ministers noted a production slump in all industries.

During the first six months of 1994 the gross domestic product has decreased by 26.5 percent, while the national income has decreased by 28.5 percent. Roman Shpek believes that the most dangerous factors are the priority growth in prices as compared to wages, a decrease in demand for manufactured products because of absence of money for settling accounts and curtailment of the currency market.

As Petro Hermanchuk remarked, the budgets at all levels failed to receive significant sums of money. For example, Ukraine's aggregate budget revenues during the first six months of the year have amounted to over 150 trillion [as received] karbovantsi while expenditures have amounted to 177 trillion.

The Economy Ministry forecasts a decrease in the produced national income and the volume of industrial production. The output of electricity, coal, rolled metals, automobiles and agricultural produce will drop. In connection with this the Cabinet of Ministers instructed ministries, departments and local bodies of power to work out measures to stop the fall in the volume of production and to improve the financial state of enterprises and organizations.

Economy, Finance Ministers on Budget, Taxation

LD1108221194 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1941 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] Kiev [No dateline as received]—"According to calculations of Ukraine's Economy Ministry, by the end of the year our state's aggregate budget deficit—that is, the budget that consists of the budgets at all levels—will be 196 trillion karbovantsi [as received]," pointed out Finance Minister Petro Hermanchuk at a news conference on the results of the sitting of the Cabinet of Ministers, which took place on the same day. The minister gave assurances that such a budget deficit did not differ from the norms adopted by international financial organizations.

Ukraine's Economy Minister Roman Shpek, who attended the news conference, said one of the main tasks today is to prevent a leap-like growth in prices and bring the inflation level by the end of the year down to 10 percent per month or less.

As far as changes in the taxation policy are concerned, Petro Hermanchuk pointed out that at present it is inexpedient to change this policy radically. He also said that the government is working out a mechanism of a new taxation policy for 1995 according to which, in particular, the rate of the value-added tax will be changed, income tax will be replaced by profit taxation, duties will be changed, and a strict control over taxpayers established.

Hermanchuk Reviews Budget, Deficit

LD1108230794 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 2050 GMT 11 Aug 94

[All figures as received]

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[Excerpt] Kiev—The implementation of the state and local budgets in the first six months of 1994 was extraordinarily complicated by economic conditions. This was a statement made by Ukrainian Finance Minister Petro Hermanchuk at a Cabinet of Ministers sitting on 31 August.

The revenue in the aggregate budget of Ukraine in the first six months was in the sum of 153.6 trillion karbovantsi, which represents 36.7 percent of annual allocations and 47 percent of a target estimate for the first six months.

The revenue in Ukraine's state budget in the first six months was in the sum of 102.6 trillion karbovantsi, which represents 32.6 percent of annual allocations and 41 percent of a target estimate for the first six months.

In the first six months of this year, the receipts in the state budget fell short of a total of 20 trillion karbovantsi of non-tax revenue, which under the law of Ukraine "On the State Budget of Ukraine for 1994" was to have been received as a budgetary revenue. This, in particular, consists of four trillion karbovantsi from the sale of military property that was to have been paid to Ukraine's defense potential consolidation fund; 3.5 trillion karbovantsi from the transit of oil, gas, and ammonia across the territory of Ukraine; and another four trillion karbovantsi that was expected to have been received in the form of compensation under intergovernmental agreements.

Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers underlined that a reduction of the debts payable and receivable failed to be achieved. As a result, an additional 14 trillion karbovantsi had not been paid to the budgets by 1 July.

Because of the considerable shortfall in the state budget's revenue, the government is financing this year's arrangements under a special procedure.

The Cabinet of Ministers has resolved that an inventory be made of the social programs that have been commenced or announced and their priority determined; proposals be made concerning the supervision of compulsory funds; the chairmen of councils of cooperative [word illegible] deputies be drawn to their immediate and close attention in putting forward relevant proposals as to the payment of local taxes and duties under the law in force; and instruction to a treasury system of implementing the state budget be stepped up.

Petro Hermanchuk announced that it had been decided, after consultations between the Economy Ministry, National Bank, Finance Ministry, and Labor Ministry, only to finance vital expenditure that was a matter of priority, thus managing to reduce the budget deficit to 190.7 trillion karbovantsi, which represents 27 percent of the total amount of budgetary expenditure.

Rise in Chernobyl-Related Illnesses Noted

LD1110083194 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1300 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] The Health Protection Ministry reports that a sitting of the Supreme Council of Ukraine committee for issues of the Chernobyl disaster has analyzed the health situation among those who suffered as the result of the ChAES [Chernobyl Atomic Electric Station] accident. It concluded that the state of affairs was worsening. Lately, in particular the number of thyroid cancer patients, particularly children, and various endocrinological system disorders has considerably increased.

Deputies voiced concern at the low level of preventive medical activity among the people and the insufficient measures for the implementation of Chernobyl-related programs. Also at issue are changes and amendments to the the legislation in force, which are required to improve the situation.

Organization Finances Former VRU Staff's Security

LD1110083194 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1500 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] Kiev (no date as received)—An association to ensure the social support and security of former special service staff and their families has been formed in Ukraine, a UNIAN correspondent learned on 11 August from Valeriy Bezruk, the association's executive-director and ex-colonel at the VRU's [Security Service of Ukraine] intelligence branch. He said that the association aimed primarily at promoting job creation, providing assistance to former staff of Ukraine's special services and members of their families in employment and their social and legal security, and helping to ensure their personal safety.

Anatoliy Kuzmin, major general of the reserve and formerly VRU deputy chairman and officer in charge of intelligence operations, was elected as the association's chairman of the board.

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Belarus

Ukrainian Envoy Notes 'Common Roots'

WS2308134/1994 Minsk BTK Television Network in Belarusian 1800 GMT 24 Aug 94

[Interview with Ukrainian Ambassador to Belarus Volodymyr Zhelibo by Lyudmila Kavalyova, place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Kavalyova, in Russian] Ukraine is already welcoming the third anniversary of its independence. What are your personal feelings on this day? What are you thinking about on this day?

[Zhelibo, in Ukrainian] Ukraine has just completed the process of democratic renewal of all central and local authorities. The new session of Ukraine's Supreme Council has begun its work. Ukraine's president has been elected. People's deputies and heads of councils at all levels have also been elected and began their work. New people have come to power by democratic means.

[Zhelibo, in Russian] It is a matter of principle for Ukraine to expand and deepen its relations with Belarus and Russia, our strategic partners. This is a very important direction in the policies of our state. On the whole, one has to admit that Ukrainian-Belarusian relations are—for the time being at least—lacking clarity and necessary scope. As of today, these relations, unfortunately, are mainly limited to regional and branch-level ties, while over 20 intergovernmental agreements are not always implemented as they should be. Up to this day, our countries' national banks have not been able to find a common language. Our people are tied by thousands of visible and invisible bonds which cannot be broken by artificial barriers, because we are united by a common humane destiny, common history, and common roots.

Exercises With Ukrainian Troops Reviewed

WS2308123094 Minsk VECHERNIY MINSK in Russian 19 Aug 94 p 1

[Report by Senior Lieutenant A. Borisov: "A Bridge of Friendship Over the Desna River"]

[Text] Summer is not only a hot season and one for rest and relaxation, but also a time of intense work for units and formations of the Belarusian Army. It is a time for perfecting skills acquired on firing and training grounds. It has been known for a long time that the field is a soldier's best teacher. As do all branches of the Belarusian Armed Forces, the Railway Troops are conducting an intense combat training regiment. The Railway Troops are perfecting their skills not only in their classrooms and training centers, but also at real sites around the country.

Beginning this year, the Railway Troops of Belarus and Ukraine are trying to revive the good traditions of military fraternity and cooperation. In August Ukraine's Defense Ministry held a tactical-special exercise which also took place with the participation of the Belarusian Railway Troops. We may rightfully be proud of being the first to hold out a hand of friendship to our neighbors.

A pontoon and bridge subunit of the Belarusian Railway Troops took the most direct role in building a NZhM-56 bridge over the Desna river.

Soldiers from both republics fully showed their professional skills during these exercises. The Belarusian soldiers, sergeants, and officers were able to acquire good skills, not only in building the bridge itself, but also in diving and design-and-prospect work, as well as in hydrologic prospecting.

The Ukrainian soldiers gave a cordial welcome to their brothers in arms from Belarus. During their work on the bridge, they shared every secret, every subtlety and ruse of professional skill, and learned from each other by sharing the most advanced methods of work. This is why the exercise was held at such a high level. Building such bridges is of a great practical applicability, both for the national economy and military purposes. Such bridges can be used not only for train and car crossing, but also for train and car ferrying. Why, then, cannot Belarus follow Ukraine's example, especially if Belarus has such facilities at its disposal? This would save our state many millions [currency not specified]. It is these multipurpose bridges which are so sorely needed in those regions of Belarus which are subject to inundations and spring flooding, or where it is necessary to build expressway detour roads.

The soldiers of the two fraternal countries unrolled in a short time that they are capable of performing their tasks as a single military unit. Therefore, the bridge built by them can be rightfully called a bridge of friendship between Ukraine and Belarus.

Summing up the exercise, Army General V. Radetskiy, Ukraine's defense minister, noted a high level of professional skills displayed by the Belarusian soldiers and rewarded those especially distinguished in their skill and professionalism with costly gifts. Army General V. Radetskiy has proposed to build a bridge of friendship between Ukraine, Belarus, and Russia in 1995. The personnel, which participated in the exercise, expressed their readiness to realize this project. Railway troops are ready to cooperate in every regard. This includes the exchange of technical information, demonstration of the latest developments in railway equipment, mutual training of Railway Troops specialists, and joint exercises. In short, those few days of joint work showed that military cooperation between the Railway Troops of the two Slavic republics has been, and still is necessary.

Lukashenka Appoints Four New Ministers

WS2310060494 Minsk BTK Television Network in Belarusian 1800 GMT 26 Aug 94

[Text] Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka has issued edicts making new appointments to the Cabinet of Ministers.

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Vasil Strachaw was appointed minister of education and science. He was deputy minister of education in the former cabinet.

Ivan Kenik was appointed minister for emergency situations and protection of the population from the consequences of the Chernobyl catastrophe. As is known, he was concerned with these problems earlier, as a deputy prime minister.

Uladzimir Zalamay was appointed minister of CIS matters. He also retained his former set of duties, when he was deputy prime minister and state secretary for CIS matters.

Vasil Sevyarynavich Lyavonaw was appointed minister of agriculture and foodstuffs. According to BELAPAN, up until his appointment, Lyavonaw represented our Republic's trade interests in Germany.

Lukashenka Cuts Government Staff by 30%

MK 1108 2013 94 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 11 Aug 94 p 1

[INTERFAX report: "Belarusian President Continues Administrative Reshuffle"]

[Text] Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka has approved by edict the structure of the administrations of the republic's head of state and new government. According to Mikhail Chyger, the head of state has thus delivered on his electoral pledge to cut the central administrative staff by 30 percent.

Defense Minister Announces Planned Staff Reductions

WS 1108 1413 94 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1000 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] The report delivered by Belarusian Defense Minister Anatol Kastenka at a regular Cabinet of Ministers' news conference on 29 August was one of the most public. Speaking about military reforms, Colonel General Anatol Kastenka briefed reporters on the current situation in the Belarusian Armed Forces. In contrast to the former Defense Ministry leadership, he was not afraid to reveal the structure and location of defense troops. According to him, they are primarily stationed along the Republic's western border. Its first line of stationing runs across Grodno, Brest, and Slonim; the second—Lyuntsa, Minsk, and Mazyrna Gorka. The minister states that the Belarusian Army has units and divisions at first-degree readiness, as well as mobile and reserve units.

According to Kastenka, the strength of the Armed Forces by 1 January 1995 will stand at some 90,000 servicemen, comprising 45,000 servicemen of the Ground Forces, 17,000—Air Force, and some 12,000—Antimissile Troops. Some 1,000 out of 1,500 units will witness reductions. All in all, this represents a cut of some 50 percent. In the defense minister's opinion, this will make our Armed forces more mobile, efficient, and controllable.

At the same time, the Defense Ministry staff will also be reduced. Currently, its employs some 1,100 personnel, while the Staff of the Belarusian Military District numbers some 560 officers. The minister promised that he will begin reducing the Army staff by cutting within his own ministry. The new staff structure will meet our targets by the end of the year, said Anatoliy Kastenka.

Reasons Cited for Shrinking Army

MK 1108 1109 94 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 11 Aug 94 p 4

[Report by Valentin Zhdanko: "Army Being Rapidly Reduced While Its Command and Control Staff Swells"]

[Text] In 1992 the Belorussian [Belarus] Military District was still one of the most powerful groups of the Soviet Army along the western borders of the ex-USSR, with more than 200,000 men and officers. Today, Belorussia's fledgling armed forces are rapidly shrinking. Military bases are being closed down one after another, and training grounds are turning into neglected plots of land. As few as about 90,000 people will remain in the Belarus Army by early next year with 45,000 of them in the ground forces, 17,000 in the air force, and 12,000 in the air defense troops. These figures were named by Colonel General Anatol Kastenka, the new defense minister, during a meeting with journalists Monday evening.

The reduction reached its peak in 1993-1994. Whereas in 1992 only a few ethnic Russian officers wanted to quit the Belarus Army and leave for Russia, today there are dozens and even hundreds of similar reports. At the same time, the outflow of ethnic Belorussian officers from Russia has sharply declined. The reason is plain. The salary of a Belarusian armed forces officer is a tenth of what his Russian counterpart is paid. As for the housing problem, it is as acute as in Russia.

Anatol Kastenka, who before 1992 was in charge of the Belorussian Military District and later fell from grace, was only called out from the reserves by the recently elected president to see with amazement that the staff commanding and controlling the armed forces has increased from 560 to 1100. In the spirit of the latest trends, the minister intends to cut back considerably on the number of staff positions.

Belorussia has not yet signed the "Partnership for Peace" program. Neither has the new minister said in no uncertain terms what he thinks about it, limiting himself to remarking that it is "interesting." The main obstacle to Belorussia's joining this program is the fact that this question has not so far been discussed in parliament, and the president, for that matter, has not decided where he stands on it.

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Defense Ministry Audit Exposes Wedding Costs 'Scandal'

MM3108123994 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 30 Aug 94 p 4

[Report by Aleksandr Starikevich: "'General's Wedding At Public Expense'"]

[Text] Minsk—The president's monitoring service has completed an audit of the Belorussian [Belarusian] Defense Ministry Trade Directorate. Its chief result may be the scandal involving the much-talked-of wedding between Andrey Kozlovskiy, son of the defense minister, and Yelena Hrybk, daughter of the Supreme Soviet chairman.

According to the testimony of witnesses, it was difficult to describe this wedding as modest. It took place on the grounds of a military unit in the settlement of Kolesnik-hi, not far from Minsk. Service staff alone—security guards, cooks, waiters—numbered over 50 people. Obviously, they did not wine and dine the young people on soldier's gruel. Moreover, the crockery for the celebration was brought in from Minsk especially.

In all, there were around 200 guests. The newlyweds were congratulated by Council of Ministers Chairman Vyacheslav Kebich, Government Secretary Gennadiy Danilov, Foreign Minister Petr Kravchenko (they are all retired now, as is the bridegroom's father Pavel Kozlovskiy), and many other functionaries of the same or slightly lower rank. Anyone who wished could have stayed the night—a hotel on the unit grounds had been prepared for them.

There is little point in recounting this event at length. I will merely cite a comment made by one of the guests in a private conversation: "This wedding was reminiscent of the weddings organized in the middle ages by the European nobility in order to strengthen its influence." The choice of a military unit as the place for holding it clearly does not testify to the good taste of its organizers.

Several piquant details about the wedding became known before the guests departed. So it is quite natural that, after Aleksandr Lukashenka's victory at the presidential elections, this story should have been picked up. The state monitoring service set up by the new head of state wanted to know at whose expense the generals had had such a good time. The audit showed that it was not only at their own expense.

Thus, at this point something interesting started to unfold. It has been learned from wholly reliable sources that the audit was completed in the middle of last week. However, all efforts by IZVESTIYA's correspondent to obtain information about its results through official channels proved unsuccessful. The excuse: "It is not yet time."

And nevertheless, we managed to ascertain from unofficial sources that the "total budget" for the wedding came to around 200 million Belorussian rubles (roughly $8,000.) The Defense Ministry Trade Directorate's expenses came to roughly 37 million Belorussian rubles. Pavel Kozlovskiy offset a mere R10 million. So, the damage to the state in this sphere alone came to 27 million Belorussian rubles.

When the "time" comes, much will be made clear. The situation which has developed will clarify Aleksandr Lukashenka's position on many points. Without doubt, the temptation to pin all the blame on Pavel Kozlovskiy is very great. At the same time, Mechyslaw Hryb may be shielded from fire and end up hamstrung, so to speak. An obedient Supreme Soviet chairman may prove very useful to the president. But to what degree will such actions correspond with the promises Aleksandr Lukashenka gave to the voters?

After all, it is no secret that Lukashenka repeatedly mentioned the speaker's name in his election speeches. It was at the initiative of Hryb himself that parliament voted down the draft law on the struggle against corruption proposed by the opposition of the Belorussian People's Front. Ultimately, even forgetting this, the president should, theoretically, demonstrate loyalty to principle. Whether or not he prefers dubious political games to this will become clear in the near future.

The monitoring service intends to brief Pavel Kozlovskiy on the results of the audit (at present, as reported by the newspaper SVOBODA [Freedom], Mechyslaw Hryb is resting at a sanatorium for the Belorussian nomenklatura which has just been built in Tuapse.) IZVESTIYA's correspondent has sent a letter to the president's administration requesting that information on the results of the investigation be made available. Let us hope that in future issues of the newspaper we will have an opportunity to discuss the conclusions of the monitors in detail with readers.

Moldova

Snegur Stresses Ties With CIS, Romania

AU3108081094 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1954 GMT 27 Aug 94

[Text] Chisinau, BASAPRESS, 27/8/1994—Yesterday, 26 August, Moldovan President Mircea Snegur made a speech to nation on the occasion of the third anniversary of Moldova's independence. This morning the speech was broadcasted by the national TV and published by the official dailies. The head of state declared that despite "the deficiencies burdening our life, there are enough concrete reasons giving us optimism," referring to "the substantial progress on the way of democratization confirmed by the domestic public and most prestigious international organizations." After the free multi-party elections a new professional parliament which works "more productive and qualitative than the former one" has been constituted, said Snegur. The March 6 opinion poll "What People Advise" "in which people

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confirmed their firm intention to live in an independent, unitary and indivisible state... cleared away the fears of other ethnics, gave more stability to the political and social life of this category of citizens."

The president ascertained that despite "the Moldovan leadership's goodwill toward the population living across the Dniester River... the Tiraspol leaders continue to intensify the situation... not only by their unconstructive attitude toward our efforts but also by direct provocations, such as the recent introduction of the so-called own currency, that is, the Dniester coupon." "As far as we are concerned we will pursue a firm and unalterable policy to the end," stated Snegur on this regard. Referring to the rates of the economic reforms, he pointed out that "the anti-inflationist measures are the impressive macroeconomic achievements of the first half of 1994" which led to decrease in inflation from 31.2 percent to 2 percent in June.

Snegur called the relations with the CIS and Romania "the two major priorities of the foreign policy." "The joining of the CIS was dictated by Moldova's economic interests. Restoration of the cooperation with the former Soviet republics and preservation of traditional market for our products," said the President, adding that "Moldova is involved only economically within the CIS." "As to the relations with Romania, I want to mention that, despite some unfounded speculations, they are consolidating... Romania is on the second place in our foreign trade; the goods exchange in 1993 amounted to $340 million," stated the president, emphasizing that there are 600 joint-ventures headquartered in Moldova or Romania. The head of state also pointed out that Moldova opened embassies in Russia, Romania, the Ukraine, Belarus, the USA, Belgium, Austria, Turkey, Bulgaria, a consulate in Germany and a permanent representation to the United Nations. "Though our financial resources are limited, we intend to open abroad other diplomatic missions as they are needed to extend bilateral and multilateral relations."

Snegur also said that "we should warn seriously all those who neglect or violate the law that subsequently they will have to answer before it. We have no rights to tolerate disorder, irresponsible behavior and incompetence either in economy or public life."

Flood Damage Estimated at 900 Million

LD2310185794 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 2130 GMT 23 Sep 94

[Text] According to verified information, the damage caused by the floods in Moldova is estimated at $900 million. Some 1,800 houses were flooded, of which 1,100 are in a critical condition and 700 have been completely destroyed and cannot be rebuilt. Some 25 schools, hospitals, and kindergartens were damaged. Also damaged were 102 buildings of economic importance, 70 km of power transmission lines, and over 50 bridges, and 35,000 hectares of agricultural land were destroyed.

An IL-76 transport plane of the Russian Ministry for Emergency Situations this afternoon left the Zhukovskiy airport outside Moscow for Moldova. The plane will deliver baby food, dried milk and other products within the framework of humanitarian aid, a total of 30 tonnes of freight to the sum of over 830 million. The aid is intended for those who have suffered from the recent floods.

Floods Force FPCDM To Cancel Elector Meeting

LD2209063094 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2047 GMT 20 Sep 94

[Text] Chisinau, BASAPRESS, 20/9/1994—Yesterday evening, the parliamentary faction of the Christian-Democratic Popular Front of Moldova (FPCDM) alliance released a communique announcing that the electors's republican meeting scheduled for August 28, will not take place due to the critical situation caused by the natural calamities. "The FPCDM expresses its condolences to the families of those who have passed away as a result of this tragedy," says the document released to BASAPRESS. "We call on all members and adherents of our party to participate actively in diminishing the calamity's damages and offer help to the victims of calamity," states the declaration.

Gagauz Leaders Declare 'Liberation Day' Holiday

LD2002040994 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2047 GMT 29 Sep 94

[Text] Comrat, BASAPRESS, 28/8/1994—Moldova's Independence Day was not celebrated in Comrat, BASAPRESS learned from the Gagauz Parliament. The Comrat government declared as holidays August 19, proclamation of Gagauz independence, and August 23, liberation of Comrat "from the German-Romanian yoke." On August 31 when the Moldovan population will celebrate "Limba Noastra" [Our Language], festivities devoted to the Gagauz language called "Ana Dili" will be organized in Comrat. The Comrat teachers' conference pointed out that the Gagauz language is studied in 48 schools of the Comrat, Ciadir-Lunga, Vulcanesti, Basarabeasca, and Taraclia districts as well as at Comrat University, lyceums and colleges.

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Kyrgyzstan

Akayev Calls For Preserving 'Harmony' in Address

LD1509121594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1431 GMT 15 Sep 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: Compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovsky, edited by Vladimir Shvabkin]

[Text] President Askar Akayev addressing the nation on Wednesday called for preserving the climate of ethnic and social harmony in the republic. His speech came on the occasion of the third anniversary since the country gained independence from the former Soviet Union.

He attributed certain progress made in economic reforms to the wisdom and mutual tolerance by the country's different ethnic groups helping Kyrgyzstan to avoid chaos or social and economic upheavals. "Despite the rapid shift to market, Kyrgyzstan has managed to escape an overall production slump, mass unemployment and a sharp fall in living standards. In many ways, Kyrgyzstan's social performance is better than that of other CIS states," he maintained.

Akayev called on the Kyrgyz people to be aware of their historic responsibility for the destiny of other ethnic groups living in the republic and forming one nation together with his own people.

He said that the initial conditions in which Kyrgyzstan had embarked on the path of independent development were the worst compared with those of other former Soviet republics which gained independence in 1991. Akayev gave a graphic account of the country's state at the time. This included "the disruption of economic ties, manufacture of uncompetitive products, breakdown of the state and party machinery, a lack of mechanisms of self-organization and self-rule, a void of ideology, heavy reliance on state support, expectations of a figurehead capable of resolving all problems at a go, and opposition to reforms, both fierce and unconstructive."

On the country's achievements in the past three years, Akayev said that conditions for a market economy had now been set including national currency and a changed mentality on the ground with more and more people relying on their own industry, initiative and enterprise rather than state support. He said all of this was a guarantee that the country's democratic reforms were now beyond the point of no return.

Akayev said his country had now finished the elementary school of democracy "based on the renunciation of totalitarian rule, on the ideas of freedom and the lifting of all bans and restrictions of the past." He described local democracy as being more measured and more sensible.

Akayev believes that next year must become the year of achieving vital, though hard economic targets such as industrial restructuring. This comprises the winding up of loss-making businesses to be replaced by new export-oriented ones and the formation of an effective mechanism for utilizing foreign credits. Akayev called to open the door wide for the flow of foreign investment, advanced technologies and new methods of work organization.

He admitted to mistakes being made in the privatization campaign calling to rectify the situation and bring those responsible to book.

"No economic reform can be brought to a successful end unless land reform is launched," Akayev believes. He pointed to the need to shift to a new social policy next year with 30 percent of government spending allocated as payment for non-industrial workers, pensions and grants.

Akayev thinks that next year's judicial and local government reforms will help towards further consolidation of Kyrgyz democracy.

Former KGB Head Takes Defense Ministry Post

MK0109091594 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 7 Sep 94 First Edition p 6

[Report by Boris Vladimirov: "Kyrgyzia: Resurrection of Former Chekist"]

[Text] A new "star" has blazed on the republic's political horizon—Lieutenant General Dzhumabek Ananbekov, former chairman of the Kyrgyz Republic KGB. A career chekist with almost 30 years' experience, he has frequently performed responsible missions abroad. He worked with Shcherbitsin and Andropov and was decorated with 20 orders and medals, including foreign ones.

His career was interrupted at 1630 hours on 19 August 1991. The general was summoned by President Askar Akayev and told he had been dismissed. The reason was the head of state's distrust. Actually Ananbekov's lack of involvement in the putsch was proved when Vladimir Kryuchkov was interrogated by Mr Alek Investigator Fedorov, who was specially sent to Moscow.

Recently the disgraced general headed the Kyrgyz Defense Ministry information center—the foreign military intelligence. Ananbekov took several experienced analysts from the old guard to the new department.

Political observers assess D. Ananbekov's "resurrection" as an attempt by A. Akayev to strengthen his positions on the eve of the decisive fight with parliament, which has been asked to disband. The general is not actually hiding his sympathies. In a long interview with the newspaper SLOVO KYRGYZSTANA he assessed the recent events in the republic as "the latest attempt to discredit Askar Akayev." The general has stated that he has compromising material relating to the president's

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FBIS-NES-96-179
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[illegible] opponents but he did not name names, getting off with a reference to the fact that they are constantly appearing in the press. Azerbaijan called for an end to the fuss over the presidency's [illegible] declaration of the complaints against him. He also threatened: 'I shall reveal only what will benefit the cause in the consolidation of the political situation and in fact my opponents, backstage gamers, I have something to say to, as well.'

I think it is no accident that the Geneva chicken has started to crow. He has made a pitch that he has not had for [illegible] in the republic's life.

Turkish Assembly Speaker Continues Visit

[illegible] Turkish TRT TV [illegible]

[Text] Humanitarian Turkish university in Bishkek, the capital of Kyrgyzstan, is continuing its contacts. On the second day of his visit to Kyrgyzstan Chairman Hikmet Cetin attended independence day celebrations in the guest of honour.

In a statement during his conversation Cetin declared that this day is welcomed by people of the Kyrgyz people. Not of all peoples who fought for freedom, democracy and human rights. Among the democratic and human rights are the most difficult rights to obtain in the world. Cetin said that the Kyrgyz people have surmounted this difficulty. However this are governed by democratic can develop in a short time. Cetin remarked, adding that Turkey will always be on the side of Kyrgyzstan in this process. He congratulated those who are attending the ceremony and expressed the hope that their bonds will always be solid as upright as the Ala-tau mountain.

MEDIA CIS: NEWS Weekly Goes on Sale in Bishkek

[illegible] Kyrgyz Radio First Programme Network in Kyrgyz [illegible] GMT 31 Aug 96

[Text] From today, 31 September, the popular international weekly MEDIA CIS NEWS will be on sale in Bishkek. The first 1,000 copies have been printed in Bishkek. The weekly journal is representative office with the aim of increasing circulation up to 25,000 copies. The Bishkek version of the weekly will be 12 pages compared with the average 64 in the Moscow version. The weekly will cover events in Kyrgyzstan and Central Asia. The first issue will carry interviewing messages from Presidents Akayev and Nazarbayev.

Tajikistan

Elections Postponement Seen as 'Concession' to Opposition

[illegible] Moscow OBSHCHAYA GAZETA in English [illegible] GMT 27 Aug 96 p 7

[Report by Galina Sidorova: 'Tajikistan's Elections Postponed']

[Text] Dushanbe—At its 30 August session the Tajik National Assembly Presidium decided to postpone the referendum on the adoption of the Tajik Constitution and the presidential elections until the end of November. At the same time, head of state E. Rakhmonov signed an edict convening an extraordinary Tajik parliamentary session 7 September to ratify the presidium decision.

The official explanation for the delay in holding the two political events planned for 25 September was the start of the harvest campaign and the incomplete nature of the return home of Tajik refugees. But we cannot fail to notice the external connection between the National Assembly Presidium decision and the recent military-political circumstances in which official Dushanbe has been caught up. Above all, there has been the increase in armed pressure from the opposition. Its leaders have repeatedly stated that it is impossible to hold a referendum on the Constitution and presidential elections in emergency conditions and in the context of the large number of refugees who have left the republic.

Attention is drawn to the fact that the National Assembly Presidium session was held immediately after the return of a Tajik delegation headed by E. Rakhmonov from Tashkent, where it held talks with A. Karimov and Uzbek leaders. Judging by everything, the Russian and Uzbek sides, capitalizing their known influence over Dushanbe, managed to demonstrate to the Tajik leadership the need for a temporary freeze on the actions scheduled for 25 September to make the present effectiveness in the third round of inter-Tajik talks coming up in Islamabad.

At any rate, the Tajik authorities decided to take this, to them, painful step. The postponement of the presidential elections and the constitutional referendum is the first significant political concession to the opposition. But as one of the National Assembly Presidium members put it after the session: 'The republic does not live in a vacuum and has to take account of world opinion.'

63 Tajik Militants Killed on Border Over 4 Months

[illegible] Moscow ITAR-TASS in English [illegible] GMT 27 Aug 96

[Text] Ninety-three Tajik militants have been killed and 25 wounded during clashes on the Tajik-Afghan border over the past five months, head of the Tajik Foreign Ministry's Information Department Zafar Saidov announced at a briefing on Wednesday.

He stated that during the summer the Tajik opposition formations had shelled border posts 72 times.

He also said that over the past five months 29 armed trespassers had been detained. Russian border guards have prevented more than 90 attempts to cross the border. During the same period, 10 servicemen of the Tajik government forces have been killed and 21 wounded.

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Sandov noted that the Tajik government favored talks and urged all opposition political and armed groupings to seek political solutions.

Kokhtamov Protests UN-Sponsored 'Mercenaries'

LD1109171494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1230 GMT 11 Sep 94

[By TJA "Khovar" correspondent Negmat Ochilov—ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Dushanbe, 11 Aug—"In recent days the inter-Tajik conflict has begun to acquire new features, which threaten peace and stability not only in Tajikistan but in the wider region of Central Asia and neighboring states." This is stated in a letter from Emomali Kokhtamov, speaker of the Tajik parliament, to Yuliy Vorontsov, president of the UN Security Council, which was distributed today by the Tajik Foreign Ministry.

Kokhtamov expresses serious alarm at the large-scale involvement in combat operations on Tajik territory of "mercenaries from Algeria, Afghanistan, Sudan and certain other states." According to Kokhtamov, "the Tajik Government has irrefutable proof of this."

The letter insists that the Security Council and governments of states whose citizens are involved in the war against the people of Tajikistan take urgent and effective measures to prevent further flagrant interference in the internal affairs of this Central Asian republic.

UN Official on Returning Refugees

LD1109202594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1604 GMT 11 Sep 94

[Text] Practically all refugees who wanted to return home have done so, according to the head of the mission of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in Central Asia, Philippe Lahteviran, who is in charge of the repatriation of Tajik refugees.

He said that according to his sources, during the civil war almost a million people had left Tajikistan. Some 340,000 have not returned to Tajikistan and are hardly likely to do so because most of them are ethnic Russians.

He also said that around 10,000 people were still in Afghan refugee camps. He added they had not yet taken a final decision but were most likely to return home before the end of the year on the condition that the situation in Tajikistan was stable.

Several thousand people have joined the opposition formations, he said.

Parliament To Convene Session 7 Sep

LD1109161694 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik 0900 GMT 11 Sep 94

[Text] In accordance with a decree of the presidium of the Supreme Soviet of Tajikistan, the 20th session of the Supreme Soviet's 12th convocation is to be held on 7 September.

'Flea-Market' Economy in Tajikistan

LD1409095194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in Russian 11 Sep 94 p 4

[Report by Alisher Niyazov: "We Will Sell Watches Without Hands or a Mechanism. ...—Tajikistan's Capital Has Acquired All the Hallmarks of One Huge and Not Entirely Clean Flea Market"]

[Text] Dushanbe—On the streets and squares of Dushanbe, city dwellers of pre-pensioner and pensioner age are doing a brisk trade in things which, a few years ago, they would not even have bothered dragging to the city garbage dump. In one case along the interminable "flea-market-style" rows one can pick up wobbly stools, watches without hands or a mechanism, locks without keys, keys without teeth, post-war vehicle handbooks, and much, much more.

Nor do the street traders have profit on their minds. The matter is one of a means of survival. One-third of the population of the capital, and indeed, that of other republic cities, support themselves in precisely this way. These people comprise mainly pensioners, invalids, and large families.

In recent months the ranks of "flea-market" entrepreneurs have been supplemented by "budget sector" workers and workers from the cultural sphere, which would have been unthinkable just a year ago. Times have changed. Now, nobody knows whether it is worse to "flog" a sewing machine on the streets or to leave one's family yet again without a daily crust.

For several straight months already, Tajikistan's population has not received wages or pensions. For many people other social payments are a forgotten memory. Mass strikes are not in evidence as yet, insofar as civil disturbances of any kind are "not provided for" by the state of emergency existing in the republic. Nevertheless, Tajikistan is moving inexorably toward the brink beyond which a huge social explosion may follow. The main reason for the emerging crisis, according to claims by economists, is Tajikistan's delayed entry into the ruble [R] zone. Of the R120 billion in financial credit offered by Russia, all that remains in point of fact are financial liabilities, and major ones at that. Top functionaries of the Tajikistan Government have recently been commuting [illegible] to Moscow, persistently trying to get new credits for the republic.

A few days ago Rustam Mirzoyev, Tajikistan's minister for the economy and forecasting, announced that Russia is prepared to lend another R30 billion under an agreement reached by E. Kokhtamov with the Russian side during his last trip to Moscow. In the opinion of Mirzoyev, the republic has sufficient reserves set aside to keep its head above water until the end of this year. Only time will tell if this is so.

Major Tajik financiers believe that the state's domestic debts to the population comprise an astronomical figure.

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at a time when the fate of the single ruble zone is becoming increasingly uncertain. Moreover, they assert, the republic is living according to the "spend, spend, spend" principle, vaguely alluding to uncontrolled issuing of monetary credits received by structures of the National Bank. It is known that National Bank Chairman K. Kasymaddinov was unable to account to deputies at the last session of the Tazik parliament for R100 billion which had mysteriously disappeared.

Uzbekistan

Currency Market Flooded With Counterfeit Money

[ZHURZHALYAYEV Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1700 GMT 11 Sep 94]

[Text] Large batches of counterfeit money have flooded Uzbekistan's currency market. The largest amounts of forged American dollars and Russian rubles have been discovered in Tashkent and other large cities. In this connection the Central Bank of Uzbekistan has called on the population to acquire foreign currency only at bank currency exchange points. In the interests of broadening the currency market, the republic's government has permitted commercial banks licensed to handle currency to open such points from 1 September this year. Until now only specialized bureaus of the National Bank of Foreign Economic Activity and the Central Bank of Uzbekistan have engaged in currency exchange.

More on Influx of Counterfeit Currency

[MIKUDINOVIYA Moscow NOVAYA YEZHEDNEVNAYA GAZETA in Russian 1 Sep 94 p 2]

[Unattributed report: "Lots of Counterfeit Currency in Uzbekistan"]

[Text] The Central Bank of Uzbekistan has announced that the republic has recently been flooded with counterfeit U.S. dollars and Russian rubles. The largest batches have been found in Tashkent and other major cities. And various types of counterfeiting are being used—from primitive versions using color photocopiers, to high-quality forgeries which can only be identified by using special equipment.

"Tangible Results" Claimed in Fight Against Crime

[MIKHAYLOVA Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 17 Aug 94 First Edition p 6]

[Interview with Zokir Almatov, Uzbekistan minister of internal affairs, by unnamed correspondent; date and place not given: "Operation 'Black Poppy' On the Trail"]

[Text] [ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA] In recent years large-scale measures have been conducted on the republic on the president's initiative to eradicate crime, and virtually all the services have been involved in this. What is the place of the republic's Ministry of Internal Affairs in this campaign? This was the first question addressed to Zokir Almatov, Uzbekistan minister of internal affairs.

[Almatov] It is impossible to build a rule-of-law state in an atmosphere of rampant crime.

The republic's Ministry of Internal Affairs has elaborated a program for combating crime and protecting public order in 1994-1995.

Special attention is in fact being focused on the fight against such critters as gangsterism, corruption, physical violence, and robbery.

Emphasis has also been placed on measures of a preventive character. This is yielding tangible results. This year hundreds of firearms have been confiscated, almost half a tonne of narcotics have been destroyed, and thousands of crimes have been thwarted. The crime clear-up rate has also improved considerably.

[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA] Crime knows no boundaries, as we know. How is cooperation between the internal affairs organs in Russia and Uzbekistan shaping up now?

[Almatov] Our relations with the Russian militia are developing quite well. Working cooperation has been established, essential information is being exchanged, and we are assisting one another in detecting crime. The legal basis is provided by the multilateral agreements among CIS states, interior ministers on cooperation in the fight against crime.

Treaties on mutual legal aid and on intensifying the fight against crime, especially in its organized forms, are clearly a more solid foundation for cooperation between our countries' law enforcement agencies, and work on those draft treaties is in progress right now.

[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA] Drug addiction is a particularly acute problem in our society. Each year a large-scale operation known as "Black Poppy" is carried out in the republic. Is it producing results?

[Almatov] Undoubtedly. During this operation illegal plantations of opium poppy and hemp are discovered and destroyed. Quite a few narcotics manufacturers and shippers fall into militia hands.

At the present moment there are over 14,000 known drug users on the official registers of the republic's internal affairs organs. There are quite a few young people among them. However, the specialists believe that the number of drug abusers is far higher. That is why we are trying to appeal to every individual's reason.

But it does not always work, even though this problem has been raised at the highest level. In April this year the State Commission for the Control of Narcotics was set up, headed by a first deputy prime minister of the country.

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Armenia

CSCE Chairman Encouraged by Progress in Talks

NC1008111094 Yerevan ARMAVIR-ZHAMK in English 0947 GMT 10 Sep 94

[Text] Baku (''Azg'' daily - Post), 08/11/94--Chairman of the CSCE Minsk group Jan Eliasson held a press-conference concerning the established cease-fire in the zone of Karabakh conflict.

The declaration particularly says: "During my current visit to the region leaders of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Mountainous Karabakh [Republic of Mountainous Karabakh] confirmed that they will keep the cease-fire regime until an agreement on resolution of the conflict is reached. I greet this position with pleasure. This is an important step in strengthening the cease-fire signed on July 27, 1994. These declarations allow us to continue the peace course and are expression of good will of the sides. Balanced attitude of the sides reduces the danger of resuming actions of enemy. This is a great input in creating psychological atmosphere towards resolution of this tragic conflict."

Russian Envoy Urges Completion of Talks

NC1008111094 Yerevan ARMAVIR-ZHAMK in English 0947 GMT 10 Sep 94

[Text] Yerevan (''Liqar'' daily - 08/11/94--Special Envoy of the Russian President Vladimir Kazimirov sent a message to Armenia and Azerbaijan.

He noted that Armenia and Azerbaijan should attempt to finish their negotiations by the end of September, in order to enable and sign in short time the Grand Political Agreement. Having reported about this, Asst. State Councilor on Foreign Affairs Vafa Guluzade accepted that negotiations are planned to be finished in Moscow by the end of September.

Iranian Charge Pays Farewell Visit to Speaker

NC1008191194 Yerevan Armenia-1 Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1700 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Text] Babken Ararktsyan, chairman of Armenian Supreme Council, on 31 August received Ahmad Sobhani, Iran's charge d'affaires in Armenia, in connection with the expiration of the latter's diplomatic work in Armenia.

The Supreme Council press service reported to ARMENPRESS that in referring to the activity of Iran's diplomatic corps in Armenia for the establishment of bilateral interstate relations, Ahmad Sobhani noted during the meeting that the appointment of an Iranian ambassador to Armenia will create conditions for the further development of mutually advantageous and multilateral relations between the two friendly states.

In expressing thanks once more for the condolences received from Iranian officials and religious leaders on the death of Catholicos of All the Armenians Vazgen I, Babken Ararktsyan stressed the importance of the development of the interstate ties and stressed with satisfaction the enormous contribution made by Ahmad Sobhani since the start of the multifaceted relations.

The chairman of the Armenian parliament then wished success to Ahmad Sobhani in his future diplomatic work.

Conference Assesses Mixed Economic Figures

LD1108171094 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 11 Sep 94

[Text] A republican conference on the results of Armenia's socio-economic development in the first six months of 1994 was held in Yerevan today.

[Correspondent Vladimir Nazaryan] Compared to the same period last year, the national income in Armenia increased by almost three percent. There was a noticeable increase in industrial activity. Real progress, a 7 percent increase in volume of output, has been observed in agriculture. The national currency, the dram, has gained strength and does not feel quite so helpless beside the ruble and dollar. That said, there has been little improvement in everyday life. The living standard in Armenia goes on falling. People's incomes cannot keep up with the rise in prices and so the consumer's basket of the average statistical inhabitant of the republic is virtually empty, as it was at this time last year.

The premier cited another warning figure in his speech. Seven percent of the republic's population are now without work and the majority are women. In the opinion of the government, the most important factor for stabilizing the economy is the restarting of the Armenian atomic power station as well as the successful running of the second stage of the privatization program and the introduction of a system of privatization certificates which is to start on 1 October.

Azerbaijan

1 Sep Moscow Karabakh Talks Previewed

MK1108105794 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 31 Aug 94 p 4

[Report by Georgiy Bovt: "Situation Around Karabakh. Don't Shoot at the Tightrope Walker. He's Doing His Best"]

[Text] Talks are due to resume today in Moscow between the warring sides on a Karabakh settlement with Russia's mediation. Armenians and Azeris so far have refrained from breaking the cease-fire accord under the 27 July decision. Yesterday, Baku, Yerevan, and Stepanakert came out simultaneously with statements of intention to observe the cease-fire until a political decision has been elaborated on a peaceful settlement. The key questions

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remaining are those of the deployment of Russian, most probably, peacekeeping forces and a status for Nagorno-Karabakh.

Not surprisingly, on the eve of the Moscow talks (which may prove decisive) Geydar Aliyev decided to end the "political discord and vacillation" in his own country. Specifically, to put the critical voices heard from the People's Front camp [of] his ex-president Abulfaz Elchibey. Aliyev, even if he wished to, simply no longer has any possibility of standing on comments.

According to TURAN news agency information, an operation by the government troops were ahead as early as 28 August to disarm Elchibey supporters in Nakhichevan Autonomous Oblast where the ex-president was staying at that time. The clashes resulted in casualties on both sides, dozens of the opposition were arrested, and the People's Front residence building was captured. The People's Front responded by accusing Aliyev of the intention to create a police state and to "crush the democratic opposition." Elchibey was still in the village of Kyrki yesterday but the opposition goes on to claim that Aliyev wants to physically eliminate him as soon as possible.

The present conflict of the authorities with the People's Front is one of the most serious in recent months. It is not clear so far how great is the possibility of the standoff spilling over from the Nakhichevan enclave to Baku. If this happens, this may start civil war. As for explosive material for such a war, there is more than enough of it. The hundreds of thousands of refugees from the areas occupied by Armenians and the population's weariness of the war against the backdrop of the nearly solid stretch of military failures of the Aliyev regime. Dissatisfaction has now reached a level where one can speak of the credibility which Aliyev enjoyed when he came to power being at an end. Ending the war is vital to him. Keeping his political prestige, however, is just as vital. Peace-or-humiliating terms (many in Azerbaijan see as such all forms of "surrendering" Karabakh and "restoring the Russian occupation" [that is, Russia's military presence] will not be forgiven Aliyev either by the nationalists of the People's Front or by the other leaders who seem to be looking to take his place. For example, Isa-bey Gamber, Surat Guseynov (the latter's military formations brought Aliyev to power in the past) is here working on an "independent stance" on the latest conflict with the People's Front in Nakhichevan.

Given this internal political setup, the task before the Azerbaijan delegation at the talks on Karabakh settlement bears comparison with doing a balancing act on a thin rope. Moscow's chances to "show" the rope walker off the political scene will further grow should it of course walk [illegible].

Minister on Strict Observance of Cease-fire

MK130933094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 17 Sep 94 p 3

[Unattributed NEZA report on the "Azerbaijan" column]

[Text] Sources close to diplomatic circles say Azerbaijan's defense minister has ordered all army units to refrain from any actions which could lead to a disruption of the ceasefire in the region of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict. Furthermore, a plan of action has been mapped out to prevent incidents as well as measures to punish those guilty of violating the cease-fire regime. A statement by the Defense Ministry notes that in connection with the intensive consultations of parties to the armed conflict, the cease-fire is to hold until a political agreement on the final termination of the armed conflict is reached.

Interior Minister Comments on Clash in Nakhichevan

AU2109153494 Baku Azerbaijan Radio-Television Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Text] There are rumors concerning recent events in Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic (NAR). This is what Interior Minister Ramil Usubov has to say on this issue.

[Begin recording] [Usubov] The existence of such an armed group in NAR's Shahar Rayon has been known for a long time. The necessary measures were taken in connection with this. It was clear to the police and other law enforcement organs that these armed groups were harming and frightening the local population. Also, there was information attesting to the fact that these armed groups were basically engaged in arms smuggling, that is, in contraband. They obtained arms from Nakhichevan and other places and transferred them to members of the PKK [Workers Party of Kurdistan] in the neighboring Turkish Republic. Both the Nakhichevan and neighboring Turkish Republic state organs know this fact.

In view of this fact, understandably the Interior Ministry organs had to carry out this operation to improve the situation and to take measures against such armed groups. And in fact, such an operation was carried out at their place of hiding and activity on 28 August. That armed group opened fire on the policemen who arrived at the location of the incident to disarm them. As a result, one of our staffers was killed and another seriously injured. The police organs acted in accordance with the law and orders. That is, this group was asked to lay down their arms and surrender. They did not heed the command and continued the armed resistance. Therefore, the police opened fire on them in accordance with the law, as a result of which one was killed and another injured. And five members of the group were joined by the troops on the spot. Among the ammunitions of resistance that armed group fled from the site, leaving behind its combat equipment and various arms. The television yesterday showed the arms and big equipment left behind. This shows that this armed group was not equipped with light arms but with infantry combat vehicles and cannons. Sentry regulations found at the location of the incident show that these persons have even set up a sentry system to shout in case of any danger or attempt to detain them.

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A full investigation will be launched into this crime and each of those jailed will be severely punished. Let me add for your information that seven more participants in this incident were also jailed during follow-up operations. For your information I want to say that a total of 12 persons have been jailed, one killed, and another injured. One policeman was killed and another injured.

Unfortunately, the spread of rumors has become traditional in recent years. Certain forces are trying to impart political coloring to such legal measures in order to further exacerbate the sociopolitical situation. This is not being done for the first time. As interior minister and an Azerbaijani citizen, I announce that such rumors have no foundation, and the aforementioned facts have been proven by investigation, and that this incident took place before the very eyes of the people of Sharur Rayon. Therefore, efforts to impart various political coloring to such incidents spring from the objectives pursued by various politicians. However, what I am telling you are the real facts. That is, the main aim was to disarm that armed group, and this goal has been achieved.

Now rumors are afloat alleging that the clashes and crackdown are still continuing there. No, there is no such thing. Some of the members of that criminal group gave themselves up and others fled and took to hiding on the face of the strength displayed by the police force on that same day, that is on 28 August. At present, the Interior Ministry organs are taking measures to capture the other members of this criminal group who were involved in the place crime. This operation pursues no political objective. Despite efforts to sometimes impart political coloring to it. The fact is that various parties contacted me and said that they would like to see such [law operations] conducted frequently because such illegal armed groups are greatly troubling the people. You yourselves know the enormous increase in banditry and racketeering in these recent months and years. These too were people involved in such banditry and racketeering. The struggle against such people is the duty of all the political parties, not only that of law enforcement organs. Therefore, those who try to impart political coloring to such incidents are first of all damaging themselves. This is because we cannot guarantee that such armed people will not one day attack the members of any given political party. Therefore, as the interior minister of the Azerbaijan Republic, I believe that it is not just to continue taking the necessary measures to detain such criminal groups irrespective of their affiliation with any political party. This is demanded of us by the people and the existing situation.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr Minister, sometimes this incident is regarded as a measure directed against the Azerbaijan People's Front [APF]. That is, there is also such a rumor afloat. What would you say in this regard?

[Huseinov] I already expressed my views. Our measures are not directed against any political party. They are also not being directed against APF, which you just mentioned. This is proven by the information I provided in connection with that incident. In it there is no mention of any APF member; the talk here is exclusively about an illegal armed group. [end recording]

Deputy Speaker Meets Socialist International Members

AU1108151794 Baku Radio Baku International Service in Azeri 1400 GMT 17 Aug 94

[Text] Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly Alivaqdar Dehetdar yesterday received a delegation of women who are members of the Socialist International Organization. Maria [name redacted], secretary general of Socialist International, is heading the delegation, which has arrived on a visit to Azerbaijan. She said that Socialist International decided at one of its meetings in Tokyo to send a delegation to Azerbaijan to familiarize themselves with the dispute on Nagorno-Karabakh, observe the outcome of Armenia's aggression against Azerbaijan, and establish the causes of the dispute.

On his part, Dehetdar briefed his guests in detail on the social and political situation in the Republic and the developments that are related to the war. He said: As understand war has been fought between Azerbaijan and Armenia during the past six years. Some 20 percent of Azerbaijan's territory is currently occupied by the Armenians. More than 1 million refugees who have been forced to move from their homes as a result of the aggression are without shelter and jobs. Azerbaijan supports the effort that is made to find a political and peaceful solution to the dispute. That is why it has supported the effort that has been made by the UN Organization, the CSCE Minsk Group, and other international organizations to resolve the dispute.

The guests informed Dehetdar that they will spare no effort in explaining the facts about the Nagorno-Karabakh dispute to the organization they represent and to the world.

Georgia

UN Headquarters To Be Set Up Near Sukhumi

LD1108170294 Tbilisi IPRINDA in Russian 1400 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] Tbilisi (IPRINDA)—The Georgian Defense Ministry press center has reported that on 11 August Defense Minister Vardiko Nadibaidze received Colonel Lasse Forgars [name as received], the head of UN observer mission headquarters. The meeting discussed issues concerning the setting up of a UN peacekeeping force headquarters in the town of Tkhaltubo (near Kutaisi). Nadibaidze promised the guest all-round assistance in this issue.

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Geneva Negotiations Focus on Repatriating Refugees

LD3108150894 Paris AFP in English 1451 GMT 31 Aug 94

[Text] Geneva, Aug 31 (AFP)—Negotiations to resolve the conflict in Georgia's Abkhazia region resumed here Wednesday [31 August] with the issue of repatriating more than 200,000 refugees topping the agenda.

Most of the refugees—Georgians chased out of Abkhazia during 13 months of fighting—have not returned to their homes despite agreements to that effect signed earlier this year.

UN mediator Eduard Brunner said he had summoned to Wednesday's meeting high-level officials from the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe to highlight "the strong political desire to overcome the difficulties concerning the refugees."

Ambassador Gennadiy Fedotov, the head of the Russian delegation taking part in the two-day talks, also stressed the need to resolve the refugee problem.

Only 1,000 refugees who fled the fighting have returned to their homes in the government region located in northwestern Georgia, the UNHCR said.

Diplomatic sources said Abkhazians are suspected of preventing the return of additional refugees out of fear of being outnumbered by Georgians and becoming minorities in the region.

In May, the two warring sides signed an internationally-brokered peace agreement that called for the deployment of 3,000 Russian peacekeeping troops in the disputed region as a way of providing security guarantees for the return of the refugees.

The agreement, however, did not resolve some of the outstanding political questions, including constitutional issues and the legal status of the separatist province.

27 Sep Marked as Date of Victory Over Georgia

LD3108200894 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1500 GMT 31 Aug 94

[Text] We have learned from reliable sources that Vladislav Ardzinba, the Abkhaz separatists' leader, gave the exact date of victory over the Georgian troops in Abkhazia. Celebrations will be held on 27 September in towns and villages to mark this event. Rallies are being held in Abkhazia today. Participants at these rallies are declaring that the Georgian refugees may be allowed to return to the Gali Rayon but not to other regions in Abkhazia. Abkhaz leaders say that they will resume talks on refugees' return with the Georgian side provided the refugees comply with the Abkhaz law and the Abkhaz leadership's demands.

Citizens Renounce Citizenship, Names Published

LD3108020394 Tbilisi SAKHALKHO in Russian 1500 GMT 31 Aug 94

[Text] Georgian broadsheet SAKARTVELOS RESPUBLIKA [REPUBLIC OF GEORGIA] today published the surnames of those citizens of Georgia who renounced their Georgian citizenship. The first three persons to have officially appealed to the Justice Ministry were a Georgian woman, an Armenian man, and a Russian man. Their age is between 24-30. The Justice Ministry has said it would keep publicizing the last names and addresses of those who renounce the citizenship of their own country.

Deputies Speak Out Against Russia, Shevardnadze

LD3010190894 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 1 Sep 94 First Edition p 6

[Report by Mikhail Delyagin: "Georgia: Deputies Are Not Keeping Quiet"]

[Text] Tbilisi—Georgian parliamentary deputies' recess is continuing. Sociopolitical life as a whole is expected to liven up by September when parliament resumes its work. But even today deputies are not keeping quiet. Some are continuing the campaign against Shevardnadze, others are pursuing the "Russian witch" hunt. Defense Commission Chairman Nodar Natadze said that he has information that Moscow has earmarked astronomical sums of money to fuel civil war in Tbilisi. Former Defense Minister Tengiz Kitovani said that the Russian peacemakers—to whom the official authorities are, incidentally, grateful for imposing a semblance of order in Western Georgia and for preparing the refugees' return—have occupied Mingrelia. Giorgi Machavariani, chairman of the Georgian Social Democratic Party, said that Shevardnadze is not in control of the situation in Georgia. The mafia controls everything. It is necessary to create a national salvation committee based on the power ministries and restore power to structures of authority.

Radical Opposition Adopts Resolution at Conference

LD3108060794 Tbilisi ARCHILI TAMBA in Georgian 26 Aug 94 p 1

[Report by Sona Zaalishvili: "The Parties That Have Signed the Convention Have Held a Conference. They Intend To Intensify Street Actions in September"]

[Excerpts] On 25 August, a conference of parties that are signatories to the convention presented by the round-table took place in the hall of the Knowledge Society [in Tbilisi]. The conference was opened by roundtable Deputy Speaker Tengiz Kikacheishvili. During his speech, he pointed out that the conference was being attended by up to 290 representatives of 43 parties. The

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roundtable had consultative meetings with the parties that had signed the convention. Tengiz Kitovani[sh]vili said that, following hard struggles, this was the first such meeting of the representatives of the national movement.

Appeals were adopted at the conference to the Georgian nation and the Chechen people. A resolution was also adopted in which the parties that are signatories to the convention declare: The events in December and January 1992[-94 (as published)] were carried out by the Russian empire with the aim of occupying and annexing Georgia. Proceeding from the nature of international law, there does not exist a law according to which the Shevardnadze regime can be viewed as being legal. On the other hand, there does not exist a law according to which the Supreme Council and the president who were expelled by force can be viewed as being illegal. The illegal authorities annulled the territorial legality of Samachablo [south Ossetia] that had been restored by the lawful authorities. The lawful authorities had elaborated methods by which the fear of ethnic conflicts in Abkhazia were removed. However the illegal authorities brought Georgia to the most awful war through its provocative actions. The country's most important part has temporarily been lost and many people have died and many also have become refugees. As a result of the antinational economic course pursued by the present authorities, the Georgian nation has finally become detached from its native soil. The reason for this is Georgia's final transformation into a Russian colony. The organizations that are signatories to the convention will not participate in elections set by Shevardnadze. A single Caucasian geopolitical region oriented to the West should be established in the future. The historical process of the restoration of Georgia's independence should be fulfilled.

Government Launches Anticorruption Campaign

LD3108202794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1647 GMT 31 Aug 94

[Text] The Georgian government announced the beginning of a fight against corruption in high places with the aim of preventing the collapse of the state.

A government statement made public Wednesday says that appropriate legislation has been drafted. An anticorruption commission will be set up, officials in the government press center told Interfax.

Numerous Georgian statesmen, notably members of parliament, oppose the setting up of such a commission on which the same kind of corrupt bureaucrats will sit, they say.

Shevardnadze Introduces Electricity Restrictions

LD3010063494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2140 GMT 31 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Uzbek Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi, 1 Sep—The severe fuel and power crisis being experienced by Georgia has forced head of state Eduard Shevardnadze to issue a decree on the introduction of an emergency mode of consumption of electricity in the republic as from today. Electricity will be supplied primarily to vitally or strategically important facilities, while supplies to other facilities will have maximum restrictions imposed.

Taking into account of wear and tear and obsolescence, the existing capacities in Georgia for generation of electric power are, according to the assessments of local experts, capable of ensuring only the lighting of homes and the operation of factories and hospitals, etc. But frequent breakdowns on lines owing to overloading, caused by electric heaters being turned on or flats on a mass scale, especially in winter, do not guarantee even this minimum. For this reason in Tbilisi, in particular, it is envisioned that factories be transferred to electric supply from autonomous diesel generators.

Underwater Gas Field Discovered in Ajaria

LD3008172994 Tbilisi CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY in Russian 1600 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] Batumi—As a result of underwater reconnaissance work a natural gas field has been discovered not far from the capital of the Autonomous Republic of Ajaria, in the region of the estuary of the river Chorokhi. The expedition, which carried out reconnaissance work and was supported by the Abashidze fund, today moved to the waters of the port of Batumi where, too, according to preliminary reconnaissance work, an underwater gas field has been discovered.

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Estonia

President's Speech Marking Russian Withdrawal

AU3108084594 Tallinn Ministry of Foreign Affairs Press Release in English 1123 GMT 31 Aug 94

[Speech by President Lennart Meri in Maarjamaagi on 31 August—received via Internet E-LINE]

[text] My dear compatriots in Estonia and throughout the world!

Dear friends abroad, esteemed Heads of State and Governments, as announced here today by our envoys!

Countrymen. We have gathered on Maarjamaagi to participate in the pages of Estonia, in Europe and in the entire world. As of today there are no more foreign troops on Estonian soil. As of today it is solely dependent on our own wisdom, diligence and realistic view of the world that this will remain so for forever.

The gathering is not only an Estonian event. It is related also to that great event which is the departure of the gathering in Berlin, the contemporary capital of the German Federal Republic, emphasizing once more that Germany's place is for good on the continent and future is inseparable from the fate of Europe and the democratic world.

Today we owe here to the past to recall the losses, to determine our goals and to reaffirm our principles. For many compatriots in Estonia, for many friends abroad, for many of our closest neighbours, today signifies first and foremost the end of the saddest chapter of our history. This is undoubtedly true. But it is also true that today a new chapter is opened for an Estonia liberated from foreign troops, which we must all write together.

As for Estonians, as for your compatriots, we have spent an extraordinary 5 years in Tallinn. We have shared with the challenges of the past. We cherish among the Estonian people one of our numerous compatriots whose fate has not allow them to live to this day. If we forget the past, we are doomed to repeat it, as a wise man once said. At the same time, I call upon you all to act in the name of the values and goals which helped us during the decades of occupation. Some have been used to escape and escaping for democracy, for a better life and for personal peace times.

The achievement of these goals now, after the withdrawal of the occupation forces, is both simpler and more difficult. Simpler, because we are now freer to concentrate on dealing with domestic issues. More difficult, because until now we had a narrow definition of freedom's goals. Having set as our primary goals the withdrawal of occupation and liberation from foreign rule. This has been achieved in two personal and public affairs. By achieving our goals, we have diminished our power substantially. Let us mourn and surely will we pass to toil as our slogan together to achieve an Estonia like the one we have no longer for. Now, it is no longer the time for settling old scores. Estonia's future needs every possible set of hands. Now is the time to seek allies and friends, now the time has come gather our allies.

Today, it is our duty to give heartfelt thanks to Estonia's numerous friends abroad, to our Latvian and Lithuanian brethren, to the Nordic peoples, and to the Governments of Sweden and Finland, to our partners in Europe, and to the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany, and especially to our friends in the United States and to President Bill Clinton, for their steadfast support and clearly stated political will. Without these efforts Estonia would not have achieved what we have achieved today. I hope that today's our duty to be grateful reaches the consciousness of every Estonian. Thanks to our, hereinafter colleagues, the Republic of Estonia is once again a part of Europe and the Western world. We have and always agreed with you, and will we do so in the future. But our common fate has always surmounted our inner disagreements.

At the same time, I call upon Estonia's friends abroad not to fall prey to the illusion that the withdrawal of the occupation forces has brought about the final solution to the "Baltic question". The Baltic question will remain on the agenda. We need your help in guaranteeing our national security, for Estonia's full integration with the democracy and market economy of the Western world. We are your trustworthy allies, since Estonia stems from the same culture, from the same world. We need your continued support, sometimes even greater support now that the future seems more secure and less dramatic.

I also want to express thanks to our new although ancient neighbours, particularly to the Russian Federation, which has eliminated the most serious obstacle to the formation of good neighbourly relations between our two countries. As Estonians, we will never forget what 1940 and the following years brought to Estonia. To forget would be to betray ourselves and our goals and would preclude the source for new trials and tribulations in the future. But at the same time our peoples' tragic past should not and must not form the sole basis for our new relations. Both Russia and Estonia have proven that they are capable of overcoming the shadows of the past. For this reason today signifies an important step towards the improvement of relations between the Republic of Estonia and the Russian Federation.

Estonians are realistic and know that the wounds of the past will not heal overnight simply because the Russian troops have left. But from today forward, we can address one another as equal members of the international community, and as neighbours who have been destined to live side by side. Estonians know that Lake Peipsi will not move, although expand to form an ocean of tensions, just as Estonians equally know that we can live together. Like Estonia, Russia is home to an ancient and unique culture. Let us hope now to finally free this so

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developing our relations and in mutually honouring the principles of international law. We are capable of cooperation. We have no other choice.

In closing a chapter of history in order to open another, let us here on Maarjamaegi turn our thoughts to all those who are not amongst us today, to all those who have fought for the state of Estonia in the past, and to all those around the world who are supporters of the Republic of Estonia today. Today belongs to them as much as to us. Let us remember those who have found their final resting place on Estonian soil—only in this manner can we overcome the shadows of the past. Let us honour those who fifty years ago set out as Europe's first boat people for the West, for both the taste of freedom and the bitter taste of exile, and let us thank all the states where our countrymen made their new homes, preserving their identity and a undying loyalty to the Republic of Estonia. Let us remember those who never set foot on safe shores and who remain nameless on the depths of the Baltic Sea; let us remember Paul Lonquist, chevalier of the Legion of Honour and forgotten in his homeland, Elmo, together with his companion Marty, let us remember the young American diplomat Henry Antheil, the United States' first victim of World War II—they, too, lost their lives in Estonia, together with citizens of many other European states.

The most worthy manner in which to honour those who have sacrificed their lives for Estonia's honour and Europe's freedom is to concentrate on the essential: securing for Estonia her rightful place in a stable, democratic and prosperous Europe. We add to Europe more than our historical experience: the decades of occupation cost Estonia one tenth of her population. For a small state, relatively, this is equal to the loss of one half million Poles, eight million Germans, or twenty-five million Americans. This is our message for Europe. Democracy is not a political fad for the chosen—democracy is a process without an end.

Dear compatriots, dear partners in the North and South, East and West! The Republic of Estonia proclaimed seventy-six years ago, as of September first, is beginning a new chapter in history. There are no more foreign troops in Estonia.

God bless Estonia!
This day has come!

Laar Sets Priorities as Russian Troops Withdraw

[Article by Urve Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1500 GMT 31 Aug 94]

[Text] To continue today's date of Russian troop withdrawal with some significance we will now offer to you a summary of Prime Minister Mart Laar's news conference at Toompea [seat of government in Tallinn] this morning. Mirva Eerikalo reports.

[Eerikalo] Today's news conference by Prime Minister Mart Laar on this day of the Russian troops' [as received] departure made the most important of Estonian and foreign journalists. The questions the prime minister had to answer ranged from Estonian-Russian relations to joining the European Union.

Mart Laar viewed the Russian troop withdrawal as being important not only for Estonia but for the whole surrounding region. The withdrawal will create a new and much stabler situation despite the continuing aftereffects of the occupation.

And yet, the withdrawal is not without its complications. The withdrawal of Russian naval officers was mentioned. Russia has been giving them guarantees but not kept them. The prime minister said that as a condition of the Estonian-Russian agreement no part of Russia and Estonia plans to forge a united front in Russia and at the international level.

What, however, could be the connection between Estonians and the Russian minority after the Russian troops withdrawal? According to the prime minister, there is nothing special to worry from the Russian population's loyalty has increased considerably and continued the hatred that existed among the Estonians during the occupation era. The Estonian foreign policy continues its open policy, which is in accordance with European laws.

The prime minister stated that the Russian troop withdrawal may even be positive for Russian-speaking population's integration into the Estonian society. However, problems in Estonian-Russian relations continue to exist. Starting from the day the Russian law on law has returned, the Estonian-language text of the Estonian-Russian agreement signed by Yeltsin's [Yeltsin, ed.] advisers has been left in abeyance [as received].

Second, Russia's economic policy is setting down markers of the future.

[Begin Laar recording] The situation in Ireland very complex and Russia's economic policy is extremely negative and it is personally for the local residents and for the Irish local office group related to Estonianed culture because the Irish wall being erected to divide the culture is very violent [as received] for the whole nation [end recording].

[Eerikalo] How would the prime minister word what the priority measures in the Estonian-Russian relations after the Russian troops have?

[Begin Laar recording] The first issue is the one about Russia recognizing the 1920 Tartu peace treaty and the occupation. Resolving this issue would open the way toward resolving many issues. The second issue is about normalization of economic relations between us. This would mean setting into force the basis of equal rights and normality. I think that if we achieve success with these two issues we would have very good chances of quite close cooperation [end recording].

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[Ermitalo] Today is the day when Russian troops leave for good, and there are plans for celebrations. On this issue, however, opinions in Estonia differ. Answering a question from my Finnish colleague on whether the unwillingness to celebrate this day can be regarded as a protest of some kind, the prime minister said that first there is a political side to it as elections are approaching, on the other hand, the Russian troops leave but numerous problems remain. And that includes the painful memories of the occupation. It is a mixture of joy over their departure and the pain of what they have done to us. And this can, indeed, reduce the desire to celebrate. Despite this, the prime minister regards celebrations as being natural.

[Begin Laar recording] We do not want to make it into some kind of a government event, nor an event run by any other state institution, because the fact that the troops are leaving is due to the whole nation. In this sense it is a celebration for the people. I think that those who want will be attending and those who do not, will not. This is a personal matter for everybody, actually. I personally will attend. [end recording]

[Ermitalo] The prime minister promised to speak about the same issues at a meeting late this night on Vabaduse [Freedom] square [in central Tallinn].

Laar: No Need for Ratification of Withdrawal Pact

[illegible] Tallinn BNS in English 1412 GMT 12 Aug 94

[Text] Tallinn, Aug 12, BNS— The Estonian government doesn't intend to have the Estonian-Russian agreement on troop withdrawal signed July 26 in Moscow ratified in parliament, Prime Minister Mart Laar said in an interview to the Tallinn-based EESTI SONA/MED daily.

The agreement will in essence be fulfilled on Aug. 31, when the overwhelming majority of Russian troops will have been pulled out from Estonia by that time. The agreement on social protection for Russian military retirees and their family members residing in Estonia, which the presidents of Russia and Estonia also signed in July, on the other hand, will apparently be turned over to the legislature for ratification.

In Laar's words, he doesn't believe the lawmakers will approve the military pensioners agreement as it stands.

Despite Russia's claims that most of the 10,000 retired military officials would be issued residency permits under the agreement, Laar says he can see no reason why Estonia should [illegible] its tough stand that most Russian military retirees should leave Estonia.

The premier claims with reference to Moscow's demarches that "even in Russia's interpretation, it's fully within the rights of the Estonian government to refuse to issue residency permits."

Latvia

Receipt of Clinton Congratulations Noted

[illegible] Tallinn BNS in English 1917 GMT 12 Aug 94

[Text] Riga, Aug 11, BNS—Latvian President Guntis Ulmanis received a letter Wednesday from his U.S. counterpart Bill Clinton congratulating him and the Latvian people on the completion of the Russian troop withdrawal from the Baltic country.

"This action brings to a close the post-World War II chapter in Latvia's history and ushers in a new era of regional stability and cooperation that will promote the greater integration of Latvia and her neighbors into the world community," Clinton wrote.

Minister Returns From Talks, Agreement Signing

[illegible] Tallinn BNS in English 0858 GMT 1 Sep 94

[Text] Riga, Sep 01, BNS—Latvia signed Wednesday the Baltic three-way agreement on cooperation in the customs sphere, Latvian Prime Minister Valdis Birkavs told reporters on return from the foreign ministerial conference in Palanga, Lithuania.

The agreement will substantially ease crossing of frontiers between the Baltic states, Birkavs said.

Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia also initialed a three-way agreement on the Baltic Peacekeeping Battalion. This document could be signed Sept. 13, Birkavs prognosticated.

In addition, Latvia and Estonia signed an agreement on authorized frontier representatives and common frontier control. The bilateral document provides an opportunity to set up joint customs check points, the premier said. Latvia plans to sign a similar agreement with Lithuania on Sept. 13.

During the Palanga conference, the Baltic foreign ministers reached an agreement on consular cooperation because the Baltic states have not settled a mutual free visa regime.

After Oct. 1, the Baltic foreign ministers will continue work at the agricultural sections of the regional free trade pact.

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Lithuania

Ulmanis Talks With Israeli Knesset Speaker

LD1608174794 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1600 GMT 15 Aug 94

[Excerpt] State President Guntis Ulmanis today received Israeli Knesset Speaker Shevah Weiss, who has arrived on a visit at the invitation of the Chairman of the Saeima. The speaker of the Israeli Knesset emphasized in talks that this visit had provided a surprise for him, although he had theoretically known a lot about our country. Now that the removal of a foreign army has closed a certain era, Weiss wished Latvia a successful course of transformation in which good neighborly relations must also be forged with Russia and other CIS states.

Weiss said that he had himself lived through the Holocaust in Poland in his youth. He recalled also that the question of citizenship for 7,000 Jews living in Latvia awaits a solution. [passage omitted]

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